IN BERLIN

Berliners are okay, said the President

Here for half the length of time John F. Kennedy spent in the divided city just six years ago Richard Nixon missed out on the sun and confetti on what was a cold, clammy winter's day. Plodding through icy puddles President Nixon already, on his thirty-ninth day in office, chose to adopt the recommendation made by John F. Kennedy in front of Schöneberg town hall to all who want to make an elementary study of the East-West problem: "Come to Berlin!"

President Nixon did not stand on ceremony and experienced Berlin with a great deal of charm and frequent disregard for his security screen. Like John F. Kennedy he will probably have left the city with even more vivid impressions than he was expecting anyway.

The warmth of the reception prompted Kennedy to make the much-quoted personal commitment to Berlin to which President Nixon expressly referred in his speech to the Siemens workers. It was equally characteristic of Richard Nixon that he had the sense of humour and presence of mind to turn round the cry of "Ha, ho, he, Nixon is OK!", based on a local football chant, with which the people of Berlin welcomed him and reply to the Siemens workers "Ha, ho he, Berliners are OK!"

This tag will go the rounds in the States too, since reactions in Berlin are viewed with some importance as a yardstick of the popularity of American politicians. A Federal Republic TV commentator in America, for instance, commented that Mr. Nixon had at no point of his election campaign brought out as many people in support as in wintry Berlin.

Right at Tempelhof airport it was clear that the President was keener on shaking hands than reviewing military ceremonial. Christiane Schütz, the little daughter of governing Mayor Klaus Schütz, pulled her brother Sebastian to one side just in time to make a gangway for the leader of the free world.

Foreign Minister and ex-Governing Mayor Willy Brandt increasingly enjoyed the Berlin scene, particularly when, at Heinrich-Heine-Strasse, the cries of "We want Nixon" were interspersed with shouts of "Willy".

By the time the tour reached the checkpoint it was also clear that the President was more interested in the people of Berlin than in the strict timetable drafted by the protocol men. He continually reached out for bunches of flowers and even gave autographs.

His knack of getting on with people was instinctively demonstrated in detail when he gave his left hand to Mayor Schütz, who is a lefthander because of a war wound, when he rang up and later apologised in person to the assembled workers at the Siemens factory for being late and also when he unceremoniously put his arms on the shoulders of the Allied commandants and other officials.

Mr. Nixon does not radiate an intellectuality of the kind by which John F. Kennedy kept the audience at the Free University spellbound by his personality. Richard Nixon makes an impact on all and sundry by virtue of a conscious simplicity and easy directness.

When has any head of state ever clambered on to the open boot of the official limousine to show himself to the people? This country's leading politicians were forced to follow suit and engage in unusual physical activity but the picture of the three men, Nixon, Kiesinger and Brandt, at the corner of Kurfürstendamm, Berlin, will be a world bestseller.

Only at Siemens did President Nixon use a typescript. Otherwise he spoke off the cuff, which is good for any politician's image. His message from the heart of America and emphasis on everyday bravery as opposed to matter-of-course self-preservation at times of crisis bore witness to good advice or a quick grasp in view of the Berliner's reluctance to see themselves as heroes.

A placard in English against the background of pipes read "Peaceful work is guaranteed by men with your determination. We thank you, President Nixon." It was a fitting addition to the more humorous comments. Yet the youth branch of the Christian Democratic Union did not do badly to modify a popular song of some years ago — "Open the Wall, Richard".

When the door of Air Force One with the Presidential insignia on the side closed at Tegel airport Berlin had four hours to look back on what should prove of political benefit in the years to come. The people of Rome will not have begrudged Berlin the extra half hour. Only the militant extra-parliamentary opposition had a bad day.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 28 February 1969)

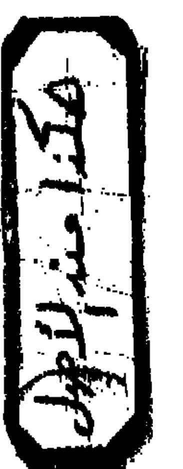
High hopes of Richard Nixon's presidency

Most people in the Federal Republic and West Berlin are hopeful of the prospects of President Nixon's term of office. According to a poll conducted by Infas of Bonn 58 per cent of those questioned took a bright view of Nixon's Presidency while only fifteen per cent were less hopeful.

Two people out of three reckoned that the change-over at the White House will have no repercussions on relations between Bonn and Washington. Sixteen per cent even felt that improvements were likely. Only two per cent expected a change for the worse.

The overwhelming majority of those questioned took a positive view of relations between the two countries but eighty per cent rated relations as good while only seven per cent assessed them as very good.

(Handelsblatt, 28 February 1969)



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 13 March 1969
Eighth Year - No. 362 - By Air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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The Berlin 'non-crisis' in retrospect

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

All's well that ends well is too easy a reaction to what turned out to be subdued Soviet protests against the allegedly provocative election of the Federal President in Berlin.

The past few weeks have, when all is said and done, been such a grave test of the firmness of the Western position that it must be asked how the test has been withstood and what conclusions must be drawn for the next time.

For there can be no doubt that the Soviet Union will repeat the test in the foreseeable future. From time to time it wants to know the answer.

More clearly than a month ago it is now generally recognised that the acrid East-West debate about the so-called Federal presence in Berlin was basically an attack on West Berlin's forming part of the economic, social and judicial system of the West and the Federal Republic.

The attack on the convening of the Federal Assembly, the electoral college that elects the head of state, in West Berlin was an attempt to erode the material substance of the city's relationship with the Federal Republic by means of the elimination of an outward sign of this link.

What turned out to be determined Western support for the election in West Berlin was intended not to satisfy a desire for prestige but to preserve the substance that would otherwise have been endangered.

This was why the crisis took place, with its war of nerves, political pressure and, finally, a clear decision.

In the course of the crisis the realisation that a unilateral reduction of the Federal presence and renunciation of occasional demonstration of this presence would be a step towards worsening of the status quo in Berlin has been significantly amended.

Demonstrative displays of Federal presence are now felt only to be necessary as long as the Soviet Union stands by its declared intention of worsening the situation.

On the other hand it has become equally evident that (and this is the most important positive outcome of the weeks of tension) only the declared communist intention of cutting Berlin off from the West makes it necessary to maintain Federal presence in its present form and occasionally accord it the required emphasis.

Were the Soviet Union to have second thoughts much would be easier and there would no longer be any compelling need to emphasise outward signs of West Berlin's forming part of the economic and social system of the West.

Now that the test has been stood there is greater leeway for sensible deliberation. The meeting between Chancellor Kiesinger and Soviet ambassador Semyon Tsarapkin, of which, sad to say, in the end nothing came, proved nonetheless that objective discussion on the Berlin situation is even possible between the Soviet and Federal governments.

There are no reasons why the experiment should not be repeated, none either why it should not be extended to the Ulbricht regime, which in the long run would definitely derive scant benefit from the impression arising that factual talks between Bonn and Moscow are easier to get under way than talks between Bonn and East Berlin. The rest of the world would then see only too clearly where the blame rests.

The prospects of another experiment of this kind being made in the long run are also brighter because the other side now knows better what the score is over West Berlin. The Western Allies, who are responsible for the city, particularly the new American administration have proved that they have no intention of allowing themselves to be edged out of Berlin, not even by means of indirect pressure on the Federal government in respect of its presence there.

The US President appears even to have enjoyed in a way this first opportunity of demonstrating his firmness. This country obviously did not enjoy itself to quite the same extent.

The Allies have also given this country virtually carte blanche to negotiate with the aim of bringing about substantial improvements in the position of the people of Berlin and to discuss communist wishes in the process. At the first sign of readiness to negotiate on the part of the other side talks can go ahead.

In the West, then, the Berlin crisis has visibly strengthened agreement among all concerned. In the East the outcome is likely to make necessary many a confidential debate.

There is no reason, particularly as far as this country is concerned, to hope that the manifest wavering between Moscow and East Berlin (or conceivably in Moscow itself) will last all too long.

It must be hoped that the other side will speak with one voice and that this voice is the voice of reason.

Ernst-Otto Maetzke
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 March 1969)

IN THIS ISSUE



New President

Dr Gustav Heinemann was elected president of the Federal Republic in succession to Dr Heinrich Lübke on 5 March at the 'Ostpreussen Halle' in Berlin. Dr Heinemann was the Social Democrats' candidate, defeating Dr Gerhard Schröder, the Christian Democratic Union canditate. 512 votes were cast for Dr Heinemann, 506 for Dr Schröder and five abstentions. Dr Heinemann is the first Social Democrat President of the Federal Republic in the post-war era. Foreign Minister Willy Brandt (left), chairman of the SPD, was with Dr Heinemann when the election results were announced. (Photo: dpa)

Soviet cheers for Heinemann's election

Soviet journalists rang up Federal Republic correspondents the day after the Presidential elections and congratulated them on the election of Gustav Heinemann. It is years since anything of the kind last occurred in Moscow.

Radio Moscow noted that Dr Heinemann's election had made a good impression on European public opinion. The main factors recalled were the part Gustav Heinemann played in the first Adenauer Cabinet and his opposition while Minister of Justice to the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes.

President-elect Heinemann can be sure of the respect of the Soviet leadership. Now that he has been elected Moscow no doubt finds it easier to tone down the unpleasant recent Berlin crisis.

The Soviet Union's main interests at the moment were evident in the 6 March treatment of President Nixon's press conference in the Moscow press.

Pravda, the official Party daily, states word for word Mr Nixon's statement that the Federal government had the right to hold the Presidential elections in West Berlin. There is not a single word of polemics against American support for Bonn's decision.

The newspaper goes on to say that in connection with US-Soviet relations President Nixon mentioned the prospect of bilateral talks on a limit to the number of strategic missiles and other problems.

His European tour, Nixon said, was a preparation for a summit meeting between East and West, *Izvestia*, the government paper, noted in bold type.

Moscow is avoiding anything that might jeopardise the prospective exchange of views with Washington. Brezhnev and Kosygin accordingly permitted appropriate resistance in Berlin but did not allow any inroads into Allied rights.

As expected only the Germans have suffered as a result of the election the Soviet Union terms a provocation. The damage will come when, little by little, the GDR customs officers turn the screw on the overland access routes and refuse to allow alleged armaments to leave West Berlin.

Emil Bölte
(Hannoversche Presse, 3 March 1969)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Moscow's United Nations aggression resolution astounds the world

Frankfurter Rundschau
Unabhängige Tageszeitung

Moscow's latest move is enough to make one rub one's eyes in amazement and feel that it must surely be a tragi-comical mistake. Yet given the virtually boundless imagination of Soviet politicians it appears less surprising after all.

Almost six months to the day after the more than unasked-for assistance lent Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops led by the Soviet Union the Kremlin has submitted a resolution on aggression to the United Nations.

The terms of the resolution as it stands are sound enough and the world would be a better place if the resolution were to become part and parcel of international political practice.

The Soviet proposals provide for an invasion or an attack on the territory of one state by the armed forces of another to be declared armed aggression and a crime against peace.

The export of armed units, mercenaries, terrorists or underground fighters and subversive activity of any kind that has as its aim violent revolution or a change in policy towards a line more in accordance with the interests of the aggressor is to be denounced as indirect aggression.

Coming from the Soviet Union these definitions are not without a certain piquancy. With the exception of Yugoslavia none of the Comecon regimes was set up under its own steam or even in the wake of free elections.

Even if this specifically post-war development is disregarded there can still be no denying that in the case of Hungary the legal government, that of Imre Nagy, did not appeal for Soviet tanks. And as for Czechoslovakia the Soviet Union has still to prove that legal Party ov government authorities issued an invitation to the armed tourists of 21 August 1968.

Still, the Soviet move in the UN is not as nonsensical as might seem to be the case. It must be seen from the Kremlin's viewpoint and assessed in accordance with the dialectics of Soviet activity. Since Marxist-Leninists of the Soviet variety are, in their own opinion, incapable of committing acts of aggression the so-called socialist countries they rule can never be guilty of ommitting a crime against peace.

On every occasion that troops controlled by a Communist Party have without prior provocation invaded another country they have allegedly done so either in response to some provocation or other or in order to render selfless assistance.

This, at any rate, is the Soviet interpretation of the Finno-Soviet winter war of 1940 and the occupation of the Baltic states and eastern Poland undertaken after consultation with Hitler. The explanations given for intervention in Hungary and Czechoslovakia were much the same.

As, of course, the Soviet leaders have not the slightest intention of making themselves and their state liable to denunciation as aggressors according to the definition they themselves have made it must be assumed that the Soviet resolution is levelled only at countries whose activities do not coincide with the interests of Soviet policies.

The Americans, it can only be assumed, are to be considered guilty of aggression despite the fact that US forces are in Vietnam at the invitation of the Saigon government whereas the North Vietnamese, who came unrequested, are not. The Israelis by the same token will be guilty of aggression but not the Arab terrorists operating on Israeli territory. The list could be continued indefinitely.

Experience indicates that the Soviet resolution, the terms of which cannot but be welcomed by peace-loving people, is none theless double-edged. In other words, the Soviet Union could infiltrate other countries and call its activities aid, then proceed to have the counter-measures taken by political opponents condemned by the United Nations as crimes against peace.

Striving towards a major goal

Where moves of this kind successful the Kremlin would have achieved a major goal. It would have a firmer hold both before the UN and in propaganda on countries it describes as imperialists or enemies of its intentions by its own actions.

In the case in point the Soviet Union would have to prove by means of a reappraisal of its policies towards Prague, for instance, that it is not merely practising Orwellian doublethink and that unasked-for intervention is not assistance on the one hand and aggression on the other but without exception a crime against peace.

Were the Soviet Union to provide this proof it would indeed have done a good deal towards improving the code of international couduct.

Martin Schulze
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 March 1969)

Silly Soviet taunts of arms manufacture

Soviet accusations, regurgitated by the Soviet Zone, that armaments are manufactured in West Berlin are a threadbare pretext for the chicanery of checks on goods transported overland to and from the divided city.

These accusations have, of course, been denied but it would be more convincing to put the boot on the other foot, which Bonn and West Berlin are well able to do.

Secretary of State Wetzel of the All-German Affairs Ministry has indeed already provided detailed information about arms production in East Berlin, the half of the city that has illegally been incorporated into the German Democratic Republic and unlike West Berlin is not considered by Walter Ulbricht to be an independent political unit.

Who in reality, it may well be asked, is breaking the old Allied regulations? Armaments ranging from hand grenades to torpedoes for the People's Navy, all manufactured in East Berlin, not only bear out the military nature of the Eastern sector; they also go well with the martial legislation and the People's Army parades.

The Western commandants have often and in vain protested against the holding of military parades in East Berlin. Disclosure of details about East Berlin's arms industry are not likely to bring about any immediate change either. But they should still be publicised in order to make the true nature of the Eastern accusations evident.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 March 1969)

The Russian bear and the Chinese dragon make rude noises to each other

Süddeutsche Zeitung
MÜNCHNER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN

In a blazing leader the Peking *People's Daily* claims that the skirmish between Soviet and Chinese frontier guards over an island in the Ussuri, a river not far from the East Siberian railway, was an attempt by the Russian imperialists to spark off war.

The Moscow press more calmly maintains that the Chinese crossed over onto Soviet territory and that this was only one of several thousand indicents in recent years.

So far only the Bulgarian party daily has asserted that Mao intended to provoke the Soviet Union militarily and so relieve the pressure on West German revanchists and their American allies over Berlin.

The common frontier between China and the Soviet Union is roughly 5,000 miles long and has recently been strengthened by boths sides in a variety of ways ranging from strategic settlements to missile launching pads.

Neither prove warlike intent. Both Russia and China have to consolidate their rule over the local population. Until recently the population of the Soviet Far East consisted mainly of Tungu and other non-Chinese Mongols, while Soviet Central Asia and the neighbouring Chinese province of Sinkiang were peopled largely by Turkmen and East Persian Tadzhik tribes.

First frontier incidents

The first major frontier incidents were the result of steppe tribes seeking refuge from their alien overlords in the neighbouring country. On the present occasion Soviet and Chinese soldiers clashed without a previous occurrence of this kind.

Do either Russia or China have war aims in Asia? Not on the face of it. Comments last made by Mao Tse-tung about five years ago with regard to unjust treaties that the Tsars once imposed on large areas of Asia were but a Chinese rejoinder to Soviet jibes about Chinese passivity towards the possessions of Western imperialists.

There are neither socio-economic nor historical reasons for assuming that China needs the cold steppes of Soviet Asia to relieve population pressure. China still has room for colonisation within the existing frontiers and has in the past tended more to expand in the direction of warm South-East Asia.

Moscow on the other hand is territorially saturated in the Far East. Since 1950 it has voluntarily given back a fair amount of territory to the Chinese Communists.

It is not hunger for territory but the striving for political leadership in Asia that incites the two communist great powers against each other. Military supremacy is also involved. Manchuria, China's most important industrial region, is surrounded on three sides by Soviet provinces. Outer Mongolia, a buffer state allied with Moscow, is subjected to growing Chinese pressure.

The Soviet Union's enormous lead in nuclear arms could well be cancelled out by China in the foreseeable future and this balance of power is not without foreign policy repercussions.

In 1962, when India was engaged in frontier clashes with China, military assistance was provided by the Soviet Union. Pakistan thereupon made cautious moves towards China. A number of Ayub Khan's opponents who are now bidding for power apparently wanted to go even further in these approaches.

India's Communists are also divided as to whether to support Moscow or Peking. Leninists canvass for support not only by means of ideology but also woo with their potential military might.

The assumption that the aggravation of Soviet-Chinese conflict might force Moscow to mark time in Western Europe is a little premature. All depends on the as yet unforeseeable shape of things to come.

At present the Soviet Union has no need to transfer even a single division from the West to the East. Peking has also taken good care to avoid creating the impression that it intends to cooperate with the new Washington administration. The talks between the ambassadors of the two countries in Warsaw, scheduled to resume in February, have again been cancelled.

If anyone in Europe is likely to benefit from the clash between Moscow and Peking it is the smaller Eastern Bloc countries. In his latest speech Rumania's head of state combined the demand for national self-determination with a declaration of solidarity with all foreign Communists, including the Chinese. And Peking's propaganda accuses Moscow of pursuing imperialist policies not only against China but also against Czechoslovakia.

Immanuel Birnbaum
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 March 1969)

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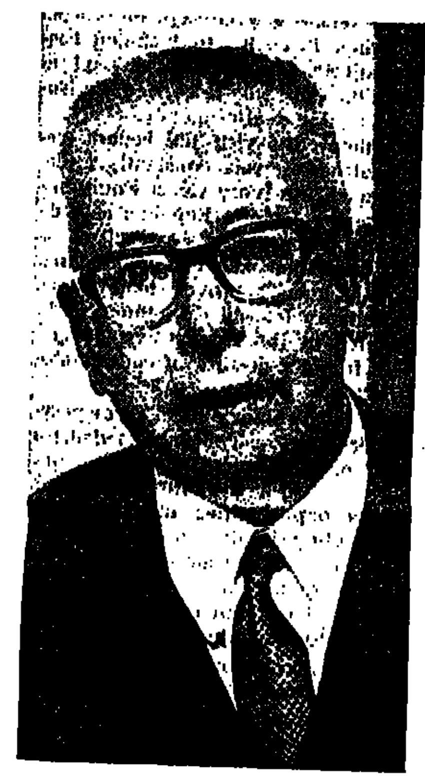
HOME AFFAIRS

Gustav Heinemann - the new Federal Republic president

Dr Gustav Heinemann is not a man given to expansive gestures. Whereas others make their presence felt with much ado, he is modest, almost inconspicuous. Rhetorical pomp is not his style. On the contrary his diction, which every now and then includes an Old Franconian turn of phrase, is straighforward but strangely penetrating.

He is a man who certainly does not make much of himself, a Christian and a valiant politician. Gustav Heinemann is the new Federal President and he is the first Social Democrat to occupy this office since Friedrich Ebert.

If one wanted to chronicle Heinemann's career, one would really have to write three biographies: that of the private person, the politician and the churchman.



Gustav Heinemann
(Photo: dpa)

Gustav Heinemann was born on 23 July 1899 in Schwelm in the Ruhr, the son of a Krupp health insurance director. He studied at five universities and graduated as a doctor of political science in Marburg in 1921.

Eight years later he graduated in law at Münster University, and from 1928 to 1949 he worked for Rheinische Stahlwerke in Essen, first as a legal adviser and then as a mining director. In addition, he taught at Cologne University from 1933 to 1939. During the 1950s Heinemann worked as a lawyer in Essen, where he had opened his legal practice in 1926.

Heinemann's political career, which began during the Weimar Republic, is characterised by one outstanding quality: he stands by his convictions and when making decisions does not indulge in opportunism but follows his conscience, irrespective of whether this may cause personal disadvantages.

From 1933 onwards Heinemann, together with Ernst Lemmer, was active in the Democratic Student Movement. After the Second World War he became Mayor of Essen in 1946 and a year later was appointed North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Justice in Karl Arnold's Cabinet.

In 1949 Chancellor Konrad Adenauer made Heinemann a member of his first Cabinet, but only a year later came the breach: in protest against the initiation of the rearmament policy, Heinemann resigned from the government — not a very frequent occurrence in Federal Republic politics. And two years later he broke with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which he had helped to found in the British occupation zone after the war.

Then Heinemann founded the All-German People's Party (GV) which did not attract much support and was disbanded in 1957 with the recommendation that members should join the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Heinemann did join the SPD and shortly afterwards was elected to the Bundestag.

During the Third Reich, Heinemann who was an active Protestant joined the Confessional Church (the anti-Nazi movement within the Protestant Church). Straight after the war he became a member of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD); three years later he became president of the Church Assembly in Eisenach, a constitutional body, and in 1949 he became chairman of the EKD All-German synod for a five-year period. In 1967 he was given an honorary doctorate by the Protestant, theological faculty of Bonn University.

Gustav Heinemann soon became the SPD's legal expert and so when the Grand Coalition was formed it was only natural that he should be nominated as Minister of Justice.

Being naturally modest Heinemann made no secret of the fact that he only accepted candidature for the post of Federal President "with hesitation" because "oppressively high demands" are made of this highest government office, while the possibilities of fulfilling these expectations are pretty limited by virtue of Basic Law and the nature of the post.

He does not want to be politically active on his own initiative because the head of state cannot be held responsible to anyone. But Heinemann does not want to act as a mere representative. The Federal President should indirectly participate in major decisions by trying to consult and exchange views with government and Bundestag representatives.

The new Federal President's relationship to the state, which he is to represent, is equally clear and rational. He regards the state as a necessity which is essential for human co-existence and rejects any kind of transcendental exaggeration of the role of the state. This attitude excludes any possibility of a sentimental attitude to the state.

In an interview Heinemann once expressed this view in an aphoristic manner: "I do not love the state, I love my wife. The state is a necessity which we cannot avoid."

Popular opinion has it that Heinemann is dry and humourless. This is not true. Heinemann, who looks sixty though he is in fact already 69, is more inclined to grin or laugh quietly than to roar with laughter and has a deep-seated sense of humour.

Holger Quiring
(Hannoversche Presse, 6 March 1969)

The heir apparent — I'll take that one!
(Cartoon: E. M. Lang / Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Fifth presidential election

The recent meeting of the Federal Assembly in West Berlin was the fifth time since the establishment of the Federal Republic that this body had convened.

The first time the Federal Assembly met was on 12 September 1949 in Bonn. In the election for Federal President, Professor Theodor Heuss, the Free Democratic Party (FDP) candidate, won a narrow majority on the second count; he was given 416 of a possible 804 votes.

On 17 July 1954 in West Berlin, Theodor Heuss was re-elected having gained 871 of 987 votes. On 1 July 1959 Heinrich Lübke, Christian Democratic Union (CDU), was elected as Heuss' successor in West Berlin. On the second count, Lübke obtained 520 of a possible 1,038 votes.

Lübke gained 710 out of 1042 votes when he was re-elected for a second term on 1 July 1964. This election was also held in West Berlin. Since the 1959 election West Berlin votes have been counted along with the other votes.

On 5 March 1969 Heinrich Lübke's successor was elected in West Berlin. Dr. Gustav Heinemann, Social Democratic Party (SPD), received 512 of 1,023 votes in the third ballot.

Authority without power

Today anyone who talks about the distinction and dignity of government office is likely to be suspected of clinging to old ideas of order, according to which the state represents a superior, independent power vis-à-vis the people.

German liberals and democrats have always found it difficult to establish the right relationship to government offices and power in a democratic state. For too long both concepts were linked with the monarchy and were therefore regarded as inimical.

But if Prussian kings once liked to describe themselves as "God's representatives on earth" and hence as the state's senior servants, this old-fashioned view of the monarchy can be transferred to the present day though admittedly in a rather daring manner.

The Federal Republic's elected head of state might well regard himself as a kind of official representing the whole of the electorate and hence the whole population. One can certainly assume that the first President of the Federal Republic, Theodor Heuss, saw his role as that of the nation's teacher and adviser.

Basically, the highest office in the Federal Republic, the Presidency, is overshadowed by contradictions. The Federal President whose powers or duties are outlined in Articles 54 to 61 of Basic Law is supposed to embody the highest authority in the country.

Logically, though not explicitly, this means that he must exert authority with considered leadership. But in practice he is not allowed to exercise authority in any form even in emergencies.

This is the main contrast with the powers of the President of the Reich during the Weimar Republic, who was allowed extraordinary powers in the event of a crisis, quite apart from the fact that he was commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

It is true that the Federal President represents the country externally, but policy decisions are made by the Chancellor. At the instigation of the Bundestag and with the approval of the Bundesrat, the President is responsible for announcing the need to defend the country, but he cannot exert any influence on the armed forces.

He appoints government officials and appends his signature to the appointment of Federal Ministers. But what would happen if he refused to sign in such cases? As yet this remains an untested area of dispute for constitutional lawyers as Basic Law does not envisage such an occurrence.

People often say that constitutional monarchs ruled but did not govern. In the United States the presidency and government leadership are one and the same thing. The American President is his own prime minister.

As far as this country is concerned, one can only say that the Federal President does not rule nor does he govern. He is merely a representative. Does this debase the highest office in the Federal Republic? Not at all, but it makes accepting the responsibility this office incredibly difficult and tricky.

The person who occupies this position needs to possess an unusual amount of leadership, a very deep understanding of the dignity and power of a constitutional state and at the same time a high degree of self-discipline and tact.

Twenty years ago when the fathers of Basic Law set to work to give the free part of this country a viable, new political basis, they were anxious — but in an excessively narrow-minded sort of way — to learn the lessons of history.

They were haunted by the dying years of the Weimar democracy of Hindenburg's government. Presidential democracy came to an end when Hitler was appointed Reich Chancellor. This was not to be allowed to happen again.

So they divested future Federal presidents of all genuine powers and constructed a chancellor's democracy, knowing that the government leader would be directly controlled by elected represents. In the light of these constitutional principles, every new Federal President is faced with the task of imposing his own style on the highest government office.

Theodor Heuss succeeded in doing this. Ten years ago Konrad Adenauer suddenly tried to make a bold turn-about and transfer from the Palais Schaumburg, the Chancellor's official residence, to the Villa Hammerschmidt, the President's residence.

Walter Görlitz
(DIE WELT, 6 March 1969)



IN AFRICA

President Lübke's last state visit

DUTY DONE WITH SMILES AND HAND WAVES

Süddeutsche Zeitung
MÜNCHNER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN

Heinrich Lübke found the wooden casket presented to him by the Mayor of Bouaké at an official ceremony almost too heavy to carry. Inside, on dark red velvet, gleamed the larger-than-life city key skilfully made by African goldsmiths, like the key to a giant's castle.

This was not the first time that the Federal President during his last state visit as president was surprised by the display of magnificence which accompanied the first visit of a European head of state to the Ivory Coast.

But the eight-inch long key of solid gold was only the beginning. Djibo Sounkalo, the Mayor of Bouaké which is the second largest city in the country, was utterly in his element. For more than an hour his distinguished guest and party were driven from the airport along a carefully thought out route which looped backwards and forwards throughout the city.

Under the full glare of the midday sun he stood beside Heinrich Lübke in the shiny black chrome Cadillac which the President of the Ivory Coast had had sent to Bouaké from the capital 250 miles away especially for the occasion.

The car moved slowly through a lane of laughing, clapping Africans, followed by a motorcade; the Federal Republic flag dominated the streets. To show the Germans how much their products are admired in this West African republic, even the local veterinary surgeon had renounced his black Mercedes 250 S for the benefit of the guests.

Then Heinrich Lübke, with rosy cheeks and tired limbs, stood before his host and received a chieftain's insignia: the gold-embroidered, black velvet hat, the long carved chieftain's staff, the huge fly-swatter with a golden handle and many other gifts. In the background, the local chieftains from the Bouaké region watched the white-haired elderly gentleman from the distant Federal Republic with proud cheerfulness as he was received into their midst as an honorary member.

President Heinrich Lübke of the Federal Republic with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny

(Photo: dpa)

From the moment when the Luftwaffe's new Boeing 707 with the stylised Iron Cross on the wings touched down at the ultra-modern airport of Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast, Heinrich Lübke and some of his colleagues had increasing difficulty in viewing in the right perspective the splendid display which unrolled before them.

In fact, it all started before this. While the Federal President was still trying to sort out the confusing variety of people and countries he was to visit in his Bonn villa, the Ivory Coast daily published for the four million inhabitants—*Fraternité Matin*—appeared with the banner headline "Welcome to President H. Lübke" and the front page was edged with a black-red-and-gold border, the colours of the Federal Republic. Throughout the week radio and television did not tire of broadcasting German music and German films.

But this visit was also politically significant as could be seen from the expressions of the Frenchmen who mingled with the Africans in the streets of Abidjan and Bouaké. Most of the younger Frenchmen waved at the visitors with unmistakable approval. However, some of the older Frenchmen obviously regarded the arrival of the Federal Republic delegation as an invasion of their oldest sphere of interest.

The Ivory Coast, a country the size of the Federal Republic, was regarded as France's favourite child in Africa long after it gained independence in 1960. Even attempts by Common Market partners to corner a section of this extraordinarily healthy African market were greeted in Paris with acid smiles.

Behind the splendours of this state visit, this is where the major misunderstanding lies. Whilst politicians in Bonn are anxious not to tread on France's toes in the Ivory Coast, and throughout French-speaking Africa, many of the top government officials there regard it as a foregone conclusion that the idea of the visit was to gain a lever against certain authoritarian attitudes of the French in this country.

But the Federal Republic's policy is certainly not as determined as that. Whenever there was talk of cooperation between the Ivory Coast and the Federal Republic, it was always pointed out by this country's representatives that Franco-Federal Republic cooperation on all these issues would be most advantageous.

Briefed on the flight to West Africa

During the flight to the Ivory Coast, while the three Luftwaffe orderlies served smoked eel, chicken breasts, celestine beef-tea and roast sirloin to the President's party, Heinrich Lübke and his wife Wilhelmine continued to study the mass of documents provided by Bonn officials.

In the meantime—according to protocoll—greetings telegrams were sent to the heads of state over whose countries the plane flew. General de Gaulle did not reply to these greetings, but Spain's hard-pressed leader General Franco conveyed his thanks even before the aeroplane had reached Gibraltar.

In Abidjan, the Pearl of the Lagoon as the capital of the Ivory Coast is sometimes called, the Federal President was greeted not only by a guard of honour, which he and the smiling 65-year-old President Felix Houphouet-Boigny inspected, but also by another unsophisticated display. In Bonn such splendours are reserved for very special occasions. But in Abidjan the two presidents climbed into a highly-polished Mercedes 600 and exotically veiled dancers on three-foot stilts performed around the vehicle.

Along the route from the airport to the President's glass and marble residence the people of Abidjan celebrated a public holiday. Schoolchildren had the day off, the women wore their most colourful clothes and many of the 20,000 Frenchmen living in the city lined the route.

Opinions differ considerably on the significance of this state visit. Perhaps, Heinrich Lübke himself holds the most definite view. He was extremely anxious to undertake this major trip before leaving office. Because the problems of the three countries he visited—from the Ivory Coast he continued to Niger and then to Chad—are agricultural problems, he felt he was on familiar territory.

He did not forget to mention that he was pleased to acquaint himself with the development and successes of the country because "measures concerning agriculture had played an important part" in this progress. The confidential discussions between the two heads of state were also more concerned with agriculture than with politics.

Businessmen's sorry tales

Many Federal Republic businessmen can tell sorry tales about the Ivory Coast. A joint agricultural project undertaken by a private group from this country and the Ivory Coast government, which was to have commenced a few weeks ago, has got into serious difficulties because by inexplicable means French competitors have imposed an export embargo on Abidjan harbour.

When the Federal Republic concern wanted to employ Polish shippers, with the support of members of the Ivory Coast government, the Poles were tipped off that if they agreed they could no longer count on getting the previous timber cargoes.

Where money is concerned, there is still a long way to go before cooperative European efforts are undertaken in Africa. The situation is not much better as regards education and training. French advisers in the Ivory Coast are merely suspicious if other countries want to send professors, teachers or specialists there—even if they themselves cannot provide the necessary personnel.

President Houphouet-Boigny is a cautious man. He does not want to rush his fences; he does not want to annoy France

President Heinrich Lübke left the Federal Republic on 5 February on his last official visit as head of state. His trip took him to the Ivory Coast, Niger and Chad where he was warmly received. President Lübke returned to this country on 18 February.

because without a doubt he needs France more than any other country to ensure the development of his nation.

But for this very reason the Federal Republic state visit is important to him, and for this very reason he and his colleagues wish that people from this country would not always hide behind the façade of Franco-Federal Republic cooperation when it comes to planning concrete projects. The French attempt to maintain its monopoly is costing the Ivory Coast a good deal of money.

Throughout this visit the Federal Republic delegation was constantly aware of how much the Ivory Coast would like to engage the Federal Republic as a direct economic partner. As a result of the visit a capital loan of seven million Marks, which had been approved long before, and a delivery loan of 6.5 million Marks was offered to the Ivory Coast government—a friendly gesture of considerable significance.

But the most senior official accompanying the Federal President on this visit, the Minister of Economic Cooperation, was forced to realise how limited the Federal Republic's opportunities of pursuing a planned policy in developing countries are—just when the impression of this country's foreign policy in Africa had been polished up with considerable success thanks to the state visit.

Erhard Eppler, Minister of Economic Cooperation, was in danger of losing his enthusiasm because of the splendid reception, the colourful African dances and the impressive landscape between the tropical rain forests and the grass plains, when he heard the news from Bonn.

Administrative improvements

Even though he himself kept quiet, it was no secret in Abidjan that in Bonn this young Social Democrat and active Protestant had been tripped up. For weeks his attempt to at last tighten up the administrative apparatus responsible for this country's development aid by creating a Federal bureau for development aid had been repeatedly delayed by the Cabinet without objective reasons being given.

Then the Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions (*CDU/CSU*) in the Bundestag did something else. Hours before the Minister and the President departed, they rejected a suggestion by his Ministry which was intended to prevent the developing countries from receiving less aid because of the new four-per-cent export tax and also from having to pay more for goods. The Coalition battle does not even leave Africa unaffected.

However, Heinrich Lübke did not let this spoil his enjoyment. Only occasionally when his wife with obvious pleasure constantly took to the dance floor did a disapproving shadow flit across his face.

Otherwise he did what he felt to be his duty with smiles and waves. One of his younger colleagues summed it up like this: "Heinrich Lübke sweated for the Federal Republic."

Werner Holzer
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 February 1969)

PUBLISHING

Augstein — a man without a biography imprisoned in his creation

He was 23 years old then and the story goes that instead of wearing salvaged officer's trousers into the office, he sometimes wore short trousers.

Now he is 45 and the intervening couple of decades have aged him. But he has remained surprisingly youthful—a bow, which shoots arrows without ever losing its tension.

It was on 4 January 1947 that the first issue of *Der Spiegel* appeared—15,000 copies, 28 pages long, advertisments were unimportant. He was the editor and one of three shareholders who each provided 10,000 Marks capital.

Today *Der Spiegel* has a circulation of one million, its average length is 170 pages and two-thirds of production costs are covered by advertising. The man in question has just bought out his last shareholder; now he is the sole owner of the *Spiegel* publishing house which has an estimated market value of 100 million Marks.

DIE ZEIT
WOCHENZEITUNG
FÜR POLITIK WIRTSCHAFT, HANDEL UND KULTUR

Rudolf Augstein, whom some people hail as a Socrates and others scorn as a Thersites, is unique in the development of the press in the Federal Republic: a man who wrote and edited a successful magazine, who—necessarily—became a publisher, that is a business man, and yet remained a journalist at the same time. And to cap it all, he was a successful salesman as well.

He bought out his original two partners for relatively small sums quite early on. Gerd Bucerius and Richard Gruner became shareholders after the departure of John Jahr who had for many years looked after the *Spiegel* business.

Gruner was the last shareholder to be bought out after a comparitively long legal battle. The take-over bid is thought to have amounted to thirty or forty million Marks.

One of Augstein's closest associates once said that Rudolf Augstein is a man without a biography. His biography is *Der Spiegel* and it began—as he himself now says—more by chance than anything else.

Augstein was born in 1923 during the political confusion of the November Revolution (though, admittedly, the uprising hardly affected his birthplace, Hanover). He was the sixth of seven children, brought up in a Catholic, middle-class home and went to school in Hanover. The headmaster of the Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria secondary school later commented, "He was the best pupil ever to attend the school."

Even at that time his critical intellect was manifest: at the beginning of the Second World War he had to write an essay on the role of the arch-enemy, Britain. Augstein came to the conclusion that Germany had no chance of ever winning the war agains Britain. His essay was returned to him unmarked.

A little later he took his Abitur (school-leaving examinations) and as he could not go on to university without working on a Nazi compulsory labour project, he found a loophole: he worked as a volunteer for the *Hannoverscher Anzeiger*. This is where he learnt the rudiments of his profession.

Then followed military service, a period in the artillery, then as a "forward observer" on the Eastern front; he was wounded and had an adventurous journey back to Hanover. And then came a significant meeting: a few enterprising Englishmen, connected with the occupation troops, were looking for a number of young German editors to work on a periodical such as had never been published in Germany before: the first issue of *Die Woche*, a news magazine appeared in 1946.

Today Augstein comments, "As far as I was concerned, the two main considerations were a warm office and getting enough calories. Anyway, I did not think the project would last long."

But the young man made a different impression on his colleagues and the patronising Englishmen. Within a few weeks, thanks to his dogged conscientiousness, purposeful—some people say ruthless—energy and superior intellect everyone in the team knew that he was the boss.

However, Augstein was right on one point: this project did not survive very long. After only a few issues *Die Woche* was discontinued because of its outspoken criticism. The Englishmen who no longer wanted to publish the magazine under the auspices of the occupation authorities put forward an alternative: Germans could continue to produce the magazine—under a different name. And so *Der Spiegel* was born and with it began Rudolf Augstein's biography.

Right from the start he was the leading and controlling power behind his magazine. But it was some years before he himself emerged from the anonymity of the "publisher." In the 1950s *Der Spiegel* became an institution in the Federal Republic; it was not so much a genuine, comprehensive news magazine as an exposé magazine.

Der Spiegel's sallies lacked pity, clemency, and moderation; on the surface articles were full of pathos which only went to hide the delight in subjecting politicians of varying calibre and various persuasions to mordant criticism until they all looked pretty much the same — ludicrous and pitiful individuals.

This was one aspect of the magazine. But early on articles by-lined "Jens Daniel" began to appear. These were, in fact, written by Rudolf Augstein whose attacks were certainly biting but he did not limit his targets to individuals; he also tried to penetrate the major issues of Federal Republic politics in thorough analytical commentaries.

After Adenauer's death the name Jens Daniel was dropped and Augstein often adopted the role of "Praeceptor Germaniae," an impatient admonisher who knew everything, in fact he knew better than anyone else. In retrospect articles which may originally have annoyed some readers read differently.

There is no doubt that Rudolf Augstein often really did know better. His angry battle against the increasingly stubborn Adenauer régime, his criticism of an excessively exclusive Western policy, his early pleas for Eastern contacts—all this appears justified in retrospect.

Does Augstein still think that his method of producing effects was right? This question turned out to be not worth asking because the way in which this man puts his thoughts on paper is not calculated. He expresses himself naurally. "I have never had to ginger up my journalistic temperament. I have often been blatant—but never consciously, for the sake of effect."

As a journalist, Augstein has never lacked possible outlets in his magazine. But what about Augstein as an editor? At least since the Spiegel Affair in 1962 it has often been suggested that *Der Spiegel* has become completely independent of its creator, that Rudolf Augstein has become the slave of his product. Is *Der Spiegel* a giant journalistic locomotive which Augstein originally put on the right lines, but which is now following a track which he no longer controls?

As early as 1961 when the idea of merging *Der Spiegel*, *stern* and *Die Zeit* failed because of Gerd Bucerius' objections concerning the style of *Der Spiegel* Augstein wrote to his colleague: "Of course, I am the prisoner of my system which forces me to deal with politics and public opinion." And in another letter he says, "For ten years or more I have suffered from the fact that it is absolutely impossible to stick to one, that is my, political line in *Der Spiegel*. . ."

Now he sees things differently. "I have created a comfortable prison for myself in which one can live satisfactorily—from an intellectual viewpoint too." Admittedly, the technical restrictions are bad, says Augstein.

Plenty of advertising means that the magazine is larger and this in turn means that *Der Spiegel* also has to include entertaining articles which do not really fit in. "At any rate, I find this dependence on technical expansion annoying," comments Augstein.

Rudolf Augstein, the editor, who has been with 'Der Spiegel' from the beginning.
(Photo: Sven Simon)



'Der Spiegel' as it was, 'Diese Woche', and as it is today

The supposition that on several occasions Augstein has lost his enthusiasm for *Der Spiegel* is confirmed by his various attempts to found other papers - once a national newspaper and later a West Berlin weekly paper. His partners, first John Jahr and then Richard Gruner, vetoed these plans. Now that he is the sole owner of the *Spiegel* empire, Augstein is theoretically free to undertake new publishing activities.

The point is that there is no editor-in-chief of *Der Spiegel* at the moment; Claus Jacobi, who was so concerned with circulation, has departed and Günter Gaus, who should pay more attention to the political attitude, does not take over until the beginning of April. So the wealthiest journalist in the Federal Republic is again sitting at his desk and editing manuscripts.

And as ever, he creates that characteristic aura of alluring distance about him. Augstein who combines tender sensibility, friendly warmth, vulnerability which is scarcely perceivable externally, with abrupt coolness, determination and aggressive harshness remains the biggest mystery and certainly the most interesting figure in journalism in this country. He is a man who knows how to live well but—so say his few friends—is not really dependent on the money he earns. His over-riding interest is politics—and he would never let this drop.

And what is the political problem which concerns him most at present? "Today, the tensions between the political parties have been pushed into the background—the main issue is the tension between those who want to destroy the genuinely questionable system and those who want to preserve it so long as nothing better or more convincing comes to light." So Rudolf Augstein, who has himself raised some hot social and political issues, has become a reluctant conservative.

But it would be unjust to conclude that he was only trying to preserve his own (large) empire. He wants to preserve critical understanding which—despite all the frothy polemics—in the sense of an objective sense of reality, that is of what can be realistically achieved, he has never lacked.

Hans Gresmann
(DIE ZEIT, 21 February 1969)

THEATRE

Two productions of Sophocles' 'Antigone' in Kassel

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Drapery and outdoor clothes, depth of stage and action before an iron curtain, powerful dramatic dialogue and earthy jargon, individual fate in Thebes and collective narration. This and more in two versions of Sophocles' *Antigone*, presented by the Kassel Staatstheater.

The first version, directed by Ulrich Brecht, was Hölderlin's flowing translation, with its mounting tension and hymn-like rhythms. The quadrangular and and circular motifs which designer Almir Mavignier displayed with his pictures at the last two documenta exhibitions in Kassel were repeated on the floor of the stage.

To the rear were bold, white suggestions of pillars which edged forward during the play, crowding in on the action. Within these narrowing limits, representing a modern-classical stage view of Thebes, Brecht's direction stresses the tensions between the characters, allowing the tragedy to loom up behind as a spiritual event.

The exits and entrances are tense, concentrated. The confrontation of the characters is deliberately jarring. Irene Marhold as Antigone in a poncho-type cloak, is composed, energetic, caustic. Objectively, she is always a step in front of the conservative Antigone. Subjectively, her performance is impressive.

Ernst Dietz as Creon "drew" the character and its fate. Tragic depth was not conveyed, and in a sense there was no need for such depth in this setting which in colour tones showed only the scale between black and white and which presented the white-robed chorus in pretty positions.

Antigone in Ulrich Brecht's interpretation was really an energetic and effective reenactment of Sellner's "instrumental theatre" of the fifties. Sellner, a master of this style, need not be ashamed of his pupil.

It was not merely the presence of several actors from Sellner's old theatre in Darmstadt (Dietz Leyrer as Tiresias, Gerhard Winter as the messenger) that brought to mind that this was theatre as "reproduction". Director Brecht was not content with this. By way of comparison he arranged for his chief stage-manager, Kai Braak, to follow up with another, more experimental production of Sophocles' play.

Brecht has been good friends with Claus Bremer since they worked together in Sellner's theatre. When Brecht was a theatre manager in Ulm Bremer was his best associate.



A scene from Ulrich Brecht's conception of 'Antigone' in a translation done by Friedrich Hölderlin.

(Photos: Wilhelm Pabst)

Awareness of many possibilities

At that time Bremer was working on an interpretation of Sophocles' text aimed at presenting the play in relaxed, unliterary colloquial language. The Kassel production is based on one of these draft studies. It is influenced by the last major production of the Sellner stage, Ezra Pound's *Women of Trachis* which is a destruction of all rhetoric.

Bremer was always full of plans. While writing the text he took great pains with the chorus. He experimented with radio. He wanted a text "which can be attuned to everyone", breaking through the limits of traditional theatre by freeing the text from rigid divisions into characters. For the first time now this text has acquired "substance" by using this transformbility in a dramatic form which has originated in contemporary drama.

Kai Braak sealed off Ulrich Brecht's stage for his counter-interpretation. He dropped an iron curtain and used it was a reverberating background for the finger-drumming and fist-pounding of his actors. These were dressed in everyday clothes, formed an acting group on and near the apron and presented Bremer's text. Did they present it, or act it, or narrate it? They did all three.

A group does not re-enact a play, it takes a text which deals with its problems. This approach goes one step further than Bert Brecht's. Brecht wrote experimental plays for actors. The Kassel method could be called an exercise for people who happen to be actors.

Sophocles' theme is the conflict of the individual with the power of the state which raises the idea of the state higher than the individual's right to piety and truth. Whatever form conflict with the state may take today, this is the play's theme.

So these young people enthusiastically embrace the new mode of acting. But this will remain modish and nothing else unless the urge springs from a desire to know and to know the truth.

Both girls play Antigone and Ismene. An actor takes first the part of a watchman and then that of Creon. What is or could become "modish" in this production in which any player can take any role is that the mere mechanics of the direction could swamp the substance of the text, that the play could become a mere role-poem, a *Sprechoper* (Handke and the Consequences).

The foundations must run deeper. The justification for this approach lies in a fundamental refusal to recognise definite roles or to divide the characters of a tragedy into good and bad categories, succumbing to an antiquated pattern of dramatic production to present the problems of the present.

The rebellious aspects of the new approach (removal of costume theatre and so on) is part of the awareness that everyone is capable of many things, that everyone is changeable and can be changed. Also that everyone can be induced to be Creon, although he really wants to be Antigone. The conception (fiction?) of the changeable, free person is behind this revolution of the stage.

This new form of group theatre, of the mobile ensemble has already developed its own aesthetic qualities. A new artistic form of speech and sound, grouping and distinguishing voices, screams, noise, articulation, recitative, sentence dissection, agglomerations, choric speech with delayed effects (a departure from the well-drilled chorus)—all this is correspondingly expressed in movement, in group formation, rows, chains, crush and separation of bodies.

The instruments of a new form of acting, which has felt its own way from its early beginnings, are recognised in Braak's production. To this extent the Kassel Antigone evening has "historical" value in the context of contemporary theatre. This is also the key to many of the problems connected with this approach.

For the first time Braak superimposes the new style of acting on a "classical" play of antiquity. He builds on a text which appeared in 1965 as a draft text which still followed Sophocles' arrangement of fixed roles and acknowledges the entire Greek system of reference and values.

This is most obvious in the invocation of Zeus, in the ecstacy with the calling for Bacchios. A style of acting which is itself in conflict with tradition, which expresses its rebellion against "theatre" in the rejection of stage settings, cannot assimilate such "classical" elements directly or without reflection.

The play ends with the warning, "You must obey the laws that are eternal." But these too are being called in question. They must at least be redefined. In such references to the "eternal values" the hollow corners of the text and mode of presentation are perceived.

Such hollowness should not "happen" to a production such as that of the Kassel Staatstheater. The difficulties involved should be revealed as such and integrated into the action of the play.

The author must adjust his text more accurately to the pattern of acting. Bremer "merely" translated the play in 1965, he did not really prepare it for an entirely new form of presentation. This is what caused that repeated sense of blurring in the second half. Deserted by the actors because they seem powerless to do otherwise the text shows up its threadbare qualities.

Braak's production demonstrates many aspects of Living Theatre. At one stage Creon becomes a many-mouthed monster when the group arranges itself snakelike around a speaker. The seer, Tiresias, becomes a bogey when draped with articles of clothing taken from other players. At other times the roles are switched more arbitrarily.

That the words about Niobe are spoken by Antigone is not very clear because the speakers switch roles just at that moment. It seems doubtful that women can take the part of Creon since the emancipation of women, their role in society, is not quite that advanced yet.

Both productions were of a high standard. Their true quality was in the tension between them, suggesting the unfolding of new dimensions in tragedy.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 February 1969)



Actors reading in front of the curtain from Kai Braak's version of 'Antigone'.

Writers turn publisher

In Frankfurt a group of writers have decided to found a cooperative publishing company. Those participating are: Bazon Brock, Wolfgang Deichsel, Peter Handke, Günther Herburger, Hartmut Lange, Gerlind Reinshagen, Erika Runge, Martin Sperr, Dieter Waldmann, Konrad Wünsche and Jochen Ziem.

This authors' publishing house will produce mainly dramatic literature. Karlheinz Braun, until 31 March head of the drama department of the Suhrkamp Verlag, and Wolfgang Wiens, hitherto a reader in the Theater am Turm in Frankfurt, have been appointed managing directors. The group believes that a publishing house operating on a cooperative basis would be most effective as an imprint producing works of drama.

The enterprise was made possible because Siegfried Unseld, head of the Suhrkamp Verlag, waived his right of option in the case of authors whose stage-rights had been in Suhrkamp hands. With respect to publication rights and the rights of plays hitherto represented by Suhrkamp Verlag existing connections between the authors and Suhrkamp will be maintained.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 February 1969)



CINEMA

Last year's films full of contrasts and extremes

Last year's crop of films brought disappointments, surprises, contrasts and extremes. Even the cinema-going public was for the most part disappointed by the home products, with which we are concerned here. Attendance dropped. Despite extensive sexual "enlightenment," people were still confused, if not shocked.

Judging by the box-office returns, the most successful film was the sex-educational production, *Helga*. This was the first of a series of films and was unexpectedly successful abroad. It was seen by three million viewers, a record that won Minister of Health Käte Strobel the "Golden Screen" award.

Surprisingly, the next most successful film on the charts was the comedy, *Die Lümmel von der ersten Bank*. Then came



May Spils' Swabian burlesque, *Zur Sache, Schätzchen*, which has run for over a year in one cinema in Munich.

Close behind these come erotic comedy's *Die Wirtin von der Lahn* and Marran Gosov's *Engelchen, oder die Jungfrau von Bamberg*, whose producer is the only young German film-maker in the leading group.

New movements are not always idential with young movements in this country, nor in most others for that matter. The Oberhausen group has decided to retain for another year the executive of its study group of young Federal Republic film-producers. One member of this group is Alexander Kluge whose prize-winning *Artisten in der Zirkuskuppel - ratlos* not only baffled the public but the critics as well.

Also in this group is Peter Schamoni (*Schonzeit für Füchse*) who produced the West Berlin lark, *Quartett im Bett*, which has had quite a good run. Peter's brother, Ulrich, who wrote and directed the film, is not, however, a member of the Oberhausen group of young film-makers.

This split between the New and the Young runs not only through families but trough the entire rebel group. For the rebels who in 1962 declared that conventional cinema was dead have since grown up and are several experiences the wiser.

Some of them have come to terms with the commercial market. Others have not survived the main pitfall of every first film, self-portrayal. Others again avoided the box-office entirely. Only Roger Fritz with his first film *Mädchen, Mädchen*, and Johannes Schaaf's *Tätowierung* are still on the bestseller list.

For various reasons it is difficult to say what can be expected now of the New Movement. Funds are running low in the pool that has helped to finance new films in the past and more money does not seem to be forthcoming. Producers are now hopefully appealing to the Federal states for assistance.

Hamburg's "anderes Kino," which made news for the first time during the dispute over the pornographic film Besonders *wertvoll*, has opened in Munich where it hopes to attract off-beat patrons with abstract films and a new approach to film-viewing. The promoters are as contemptuous of commercial films as Munich's "Independent film center" which besides regular showings is now organising a meeting of European film-makers. Fifty participants from Britain, Italy, Holland, Austria, Switzerland and the Federal Republic want to remove existing taboos, depart from the conventional aesthetics of film-making and establish their own European distribution network.

Are the old-style films and producers doomed to extinction? Not necessarily. Many producers who have spent a lifetime making conventional films (Edgar Wallace, Karl May) are now as busy as the young ones tossing inhibitions overboard and swimming with the sexual tide. They are methodically pursuing the lucrative "enlightenment" policy of other mass media and occasionally manage to strike the right note and attract the crowds.

The standards and methods of these producers vary naturally. Their speculative advertisements doubtless also give a false impression of the exclusiveness of their films in proportion to the number on the market. The patronage such films enjoy in this country does not speak well for the reputation of the German film.

Besides Kolle and Van de Velde, other home-brewed "literature" is appearing on the screen. Variants of, say, Die *Wirtin von der Lahn* are appearing. After *Helga's* success naked men and women are tripping over each other in their eagerness to instruct the population in the facts of life, teetering now on the illegal limits of homosexual scenes.

Nevertheless, the wave of sex and instruction that has swept the country is receding. Curiosity and the thirst for knowledge have been quelled. Even the magazines are shunning too much bottom and bosom and are dipping into other material.

In films too the pendulum is swinging in the other direction. Ufa director Friedrich Karl Pflughaupt says that the new trend is towards family films. The Pauker films are one instance of this. Kurt Hoffmann's emotional production of the novel, *Morgens um sieben ist die Welt noch in Ordnung*, is filling the cinemas. The box-office here seems to be in order after seven o'clock.

Other producers are entering wider dimensions of film-making and many are doing quite well. These are generally co-productions with wealthy partners, and the emphasis is on presentation.

"Atze" Brauner, for example, invested millions in his Felix Dahn production, *Ein Kampf um Rom*. His latest film on the life of the Marquis de Sade with an international cast is expected to cost two million dollars. This will be a co-production with an American company.

"Traditional cinema is neither dead or old-fashioned," said Brauner. In December he was awarded the "Golden Screen" for the first part of his *Nibelungen*, which must have been seen by more than three million people last year.

Cinema-owners' main concern is still competition from television. Over forty feature films were shown last year on television. "That is premeditated murder", complained the cinema-owners' trade journal.

"The murderers are in our midst," observed a West Berlin film periodical, referring to the fact that many of the films shown in television are sold by the producers. Cinema-owners' worries are not unfounded. Nearly 500 cinemas closed their doors last year.

Many proprietors are at their wit's end, especially as the organisation set up last year to promote the film industry has not yet done anything to help them in this respect. Proprietors were reluctant to approve of such an organisation. They did so only on condition that a straightforward film-promotion policy would be pursued. As a mark of official protest, the president of the association representing the interests of cinema proprietors resigned from the film and television commission that had been set up.

No small surprise was occasioned by the list of reference films which exceeded a certain box-office minimum in 1967. The producers of these films will receive grants for new projects to the tune of 150,000 Marks plus 100,000 Marks for television rights.

Other grants will be given for special distinctions achieved. Besides work from only six young producers, the list included run-of-the-mill productions such as *Der Mörderclub von Brooklyn* (The Murderers' Club in Brooklyn), *Das älteste Gewerbe der Welt* (The Oldest Profession in the World), *Wenn es Nacht wird auf der Reeperbahn* (When Night Falls on the Reeperbahn), *Das Rasthaus der grausamen Puppen* (The Inn of the Cruel Dolls), and *Der Mönch mit der Peitsche* (The Monk with the Whip).

The organisation that doles out money to these producers is not so much bewildered as ill-advised. Was Alexander Kluge speaking the truth in the disillusioned words of his circus directress, Leni Peikert? "In view of the inhuman situation, the artist's only alternative is to raise the degree of difficulty of his art."

Say it—and go over to television.

(Handelsblatt, 7 February 1969)

Inter-war films stored in Washington

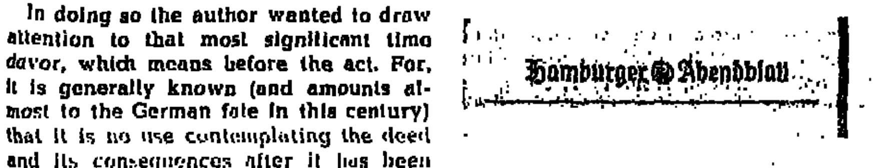
Over one thousand German films dating from 1925 to 1945, which were confiscated by American troops after the war, are still in America. Copies of most of them do not exist, at least not in the Federal Republic, according to the West Berlin author, Gerhard Schönberner, whose series, *Film im Dritten Reich*, began recently in the Third Programme of the Westdeutsche radio.

Schönberner said that 880 of the 1,000 films are stored in the Library of Congress in Washington. A large part of this material, important for the documentation and demonstration of propaganda aimed at influencing and mobilising the masses is in danger of rotting away, since these are fragile nitrated films.

The American government has offered to release the films if 16 mm copies are made. No person or institution has yet been found in the Federal Republic, however, to raise the necessary funds.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

Günter Grass's new play is a dud!



Günter Grass, whose new play *Davor* received its premiere in West Berlin's Schillertheater, stated in the programme that he set out to write a dialectic play. He wanted to describe what happens before a deed is committed or not committed.

In doing so the author wanted to draw attention to that most significant time *davor*, which means before the act. For, it is generally known (and amounts almost to the German fate in this century) that it is no use contemplating the deed and its consequences after it has been committed, and only then to deplore it. This is Grass's good intention, and it must be commended.

What takes place on the stage of the Schillertheater? Dialectic, dialectic, conscience-searching and any amount of brain-picking.

What does not take place is any drama in the traditional context of theatre. Grass was prepared to dispense with such "superficial drama", and to develop ways of departing from it in his dialectic play.

The audience, however, was not at all pleased with this course. The applause ceased immediately after the actors, Lietzau and Grass appeared on the stage. It was then too that boos were heard.

Grass's dialectic play coincides with events that took place towards the end of 1967. Napalm is dropping from the heavens in Vietnam, Buddhist monks and nuns are protesting by burning themselves, the youth of the Western world, including young Germans, are taking to the streets denouncing the Americans, and in the Federal Republic the Grand Coalition has come into power.

A few facts to suggest a background for what Philipp Scherbaum, a seventeen-year-old secondary school pupil intends to do. He intends to burn his dog Max in public before the cake-eating ladies of the Kurfürstendamm. The cake was to stick in their throats, their awareness of what is going on in the world was to be sharpened.

Scherbaum figured that a burning German dog would be a greater shock for people than a burning South Vietnamese nun or a child ravaged by the effects of napalm. He also expected to be lynched by passers-by, because it is a terrible thing to burn an innocent animal.

All this Scherbaum had planned very shrewdly and made no secret of it to his teacher, Starusch. It is Starusch's concern now (and of course that of Grass's and the plays) to dissuade the youth from committing his "suicidal" deed.

The teacher tries to persuade Philipp that the foreseeable consequences of such a horrible deed would be far different from what the boy imagines. The senselessness of a deed must also be recognised *davor*.

This is the essential point of the play. Grass was perhaps not quite felicitous in his choice of example—the arguments brought to bear on the boy are surely overshadowed and disproved by events in Prague.

Apart from this, however, Grass's example leads to nothing. To nothing, that is, except an endless stream of reasoning about the ineptitude of the older generation, their inability to shake off their feelings of guilt and to protect young people from making the same mistakes.

At the end Scherbaum yields (he is "softened", according to his ideologically sounder schoolmate) and abandons his plan. This is really the end of the play. Everything else is dialectics in dialogue form, at times witty and to the point, at times convincing, for the most part numbing.

Instead of a chorus Grass found a dentist who is obsessed with caries. In the background he examines people's mouths and generally poses as the modern way.

Also slinking about is a neurotic secondary school assistant mistress who cannot come to terms with her Nazi Bund-Deutscher-Mädchen past. The play lasted two hours on an open stage and only stayed on its feet thanks to excellent acting.

Credit is due to director Hans Lietzau for his delicate treatment of the material, and also to the actors who managed to squeeze comedy even out of the intellectual to and fro.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 17 February 1969)

■ THINGS SEEN

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"Optical Art," which the quick-witted American news magazine Time, immediately abbreviated to Op Art, was taken up by fabric designers, window-dressers and the like even more quickly than Pop Art. Backed up by an enormous amount of publicity in periodicals and fashion magazines, an art form suddenly became fashion itself. This had never happened in the art world previously.

In February 1965 Op Art received the highest blessing which the international art community can bestow, the seal of respectability, the approbation of its commercial prospects, thanks to the exhibition entitled The Responsive Eye at the New York Museum of Modern Art. This exhibition presented a varied conglomeration of artists who were concerned with coulour and form in some way or another, but who could not be regarded as action painters or new realists.

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Ideally, Op Art works make the viewer conscious of seeing as an autonomous activity. Vasarely once said that to experience the presence of a work of art is more important than understanding it. Taken to extremes, this means that the appearance is more important than the content, the optical stimulation more important than comprehending the reality of the work.

Works which are strictly conceived according to such ideas often make more and more physical, but no intellectual, demands on the viewer because of the aggressivity of their optical illusions. This, from the artist's viewpoint, pure conception of a work of art — perception and comprehension are identical, they demand no intermediary non-visual elements — was the source of Op Art's immediate success and its triumphal integration into the optical media, from carrier-bags to television.

Apart from Vasarely and Albers, Dr Aust has gathered together a wide spectrum of younger artists whose works have been on show at numerous exhibitions during recent years: from Soto and Le Parc to Anuszkiewisz, the American, and Gerstner, Mack and Luther. The British artist Bridget Riley is represented and so is Pole Fangor.

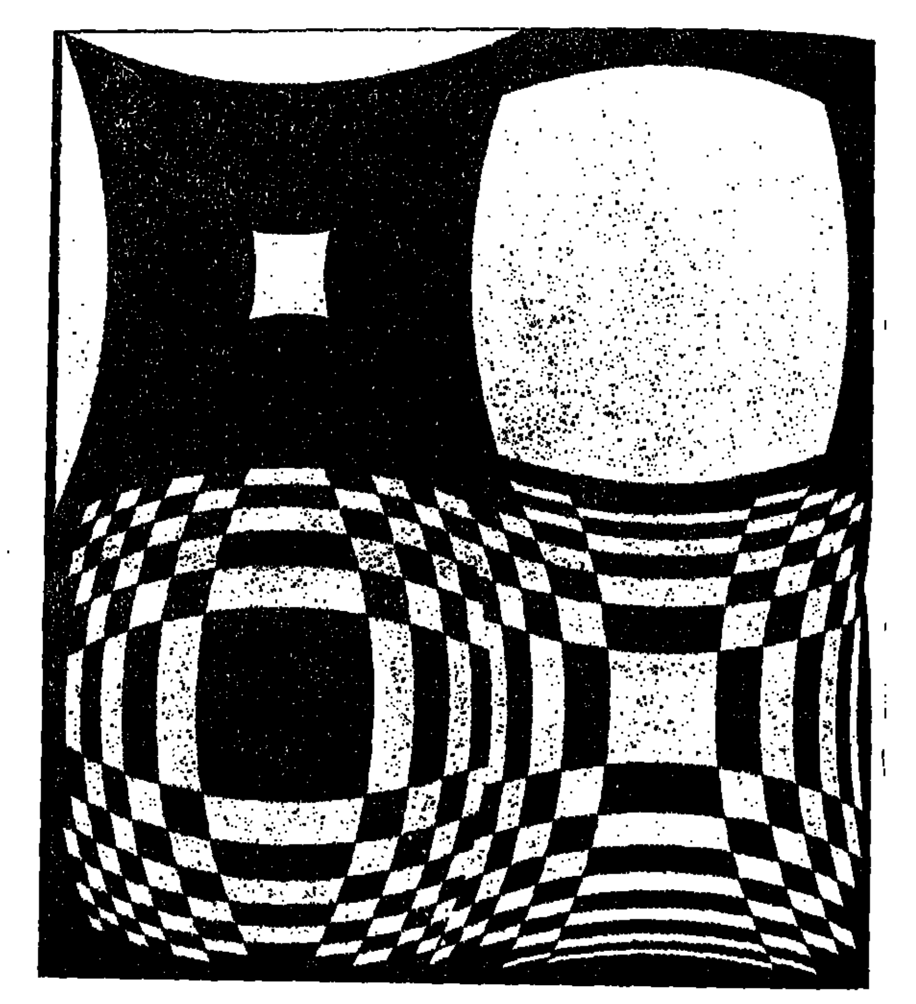
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(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 February 1969)



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(Photo: Katalog)

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■ MEDICINE

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But during pregnancy 150 milligrammes of oestrogen are produced, that is three hundred times as much as during the peak non-pregnancy period. The estrogenic substances released from the ovary into the blood quickly appear in the liver and kidneys. They are only in the bloodstream for six minutes!

The liver is the main metabolic organ; here the oestrogen is metabolised and eventually secreted with the bile. However, approximately ninety per cent is re-absorbed into the intestine and only seven to ten per cent is finally excreted with the stool.

Whereas the liver quickly transforms natural oestrogen into excretable matter, synthetic estrogenic medicines which contain above all esterified, estrogenic substances are a burden to the liver, especially if large doses are taken for long periods. Therefore, patients suffering from liver complaints should not be given contraceptive pills or medicines to overcome climactic complaints for lengthy periods.

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Apart from their effects on sexual organs, estrogenic substances have very distinct extra-genital effects. For example, they have a stabilising influence on the vegetative nervous system and reduce blood pressure; this is why they are suitable for the treatment of menopausal complaints.

They improve the resistance of the capillaries and strengthen the blood vessels; so they are prescribed in large doses for hemostasis. They reduce the cholesterol level in the blood; this is why women who have efficient ovaries or who are under long-term oestrogen treatment hardly ever have arteriosclerosis or heart attacks.

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With young people oestrogen helps the bones to mature and hence puts an end to growth. It is therefore possible to prevent excessive growth through oestrogen doses. On the other hand, for the same reason girls should not be given the pill until they have finished growing; once they start taking the pill they will not grow any more.

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In addition, oestrogen heightens a woman's spirits and her efficiency; this applies to both mental and physical activities and to fitness. Almost without exception, major sporting achievements by women occur during the period of highest oestrogen production, that is during the second week of the cycle. A woman's working ability during menopause can be greatly assisted by long-term oestrogen treatment, even if treatment is repeatedly interrupted for a few days.

Professor Lauritzen pointed out that because of the high production of oestrogen during pregnancy, the excretion of oestrogen in urine is also very high. If the amount excreted suddenly decreases considerably, then the baby will very probably die within 72 hours if delivery does not take place within this period.

It is now known that preliminary substances are necessary for estrone and oestradiol to be formed in the placenta. Eighty per cent of these substances are formed in the cortex of the embryo's suprenal gland, and the remainder in the mother's body.

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The quantities of oestrogen produced and excreted each day vary enormously from woman to woman so it is impossible to quote a definite danger figure. But the variations with each patient only amount to plus or minus fifteen per cent. If the condition of the embryo deteriorates, then it can be pretty definitely stated that the reduction in the amount of oestrogen excreted would be much greater.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 February 1969)

Computer stores medical case histories at Tübingen clinic

Europe's first fully-automatic, diagnostic and clinical information system at Tübingen University hospital was recently shown in action before a public audience. The system regulates and checks the patient's personal details, treatment prescribed by the doctor, daily medical reports and automatic laboratory tests covering the whole range of routine medical and therapeutic check-ups in the hospital.

The "heart" of the system is an IBM 1800 computer which receives information from fifteen machines and analysers in seven clinical and diagnostic laboratories, and then checks, evaluates and if necessary complements this information.

The computer transmits its evaluation back to the individual laboratories whence the information or test results were obtained straightaway. Thus laboratory doctors gain an immediate picture of the patient's overall condition and, if need be, the nature of the automatic tests can be changed through providing additional instructions.

The system goes into operation as soon as the patient is admitted to hospital. All important personal details are recorded in computer language on the patient's record card, or given to the computer department in punch-card form.

For his first examination, the computer provides the doctor with written "prescription" and "pathological" forms divided up into 250 sub-sections; the doctor simply has to mark with a cross which of six hundred laboratory tests are to be carried out.

A pneumatic post system immediately transfers the forms from the ward to the computer department where everything else is done automatically, thus excluding the possibility of mistakes or misunderstandings. The data processing equipment includes a "mark reader" which does not allow any errors to pass, even if the doctor has made a mistake in his instructions.

On the basis of the information provided by the "mark reader" the computer then prints two lists, which complement one another, namely a list of "ward instructions" and a list of "laboratory tests."

The first list tells the ward sister from which patients she must obtain blood, urine or saliva samples or other specimens to send to the laboratory for testing. And to ensure that she does not forget anything, the computer not only sends her a check list but also labels with control numbers for the specimen containers. The labels also have coded data on them, which can then be deciphered again by the automatic "sample readers" in the laboratory.

When the appropriate sample containers reach the laboratory, the second list for laboratory tests is already at hand. In addition the computer provides the laboratory with appropriately marked punch-cards which are used for internal traffic between the various laboratories and the processing equipment. Measurements from enzyme and electrolyte recorders, photometers and similar apparatus are registered on these cards.

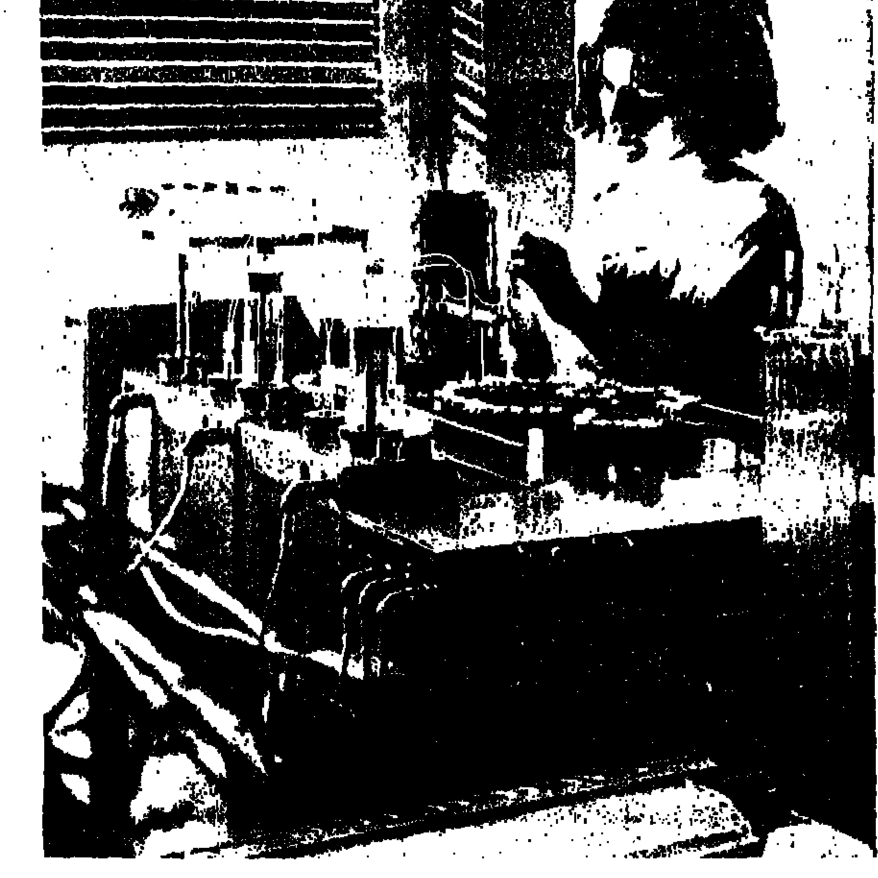
The automatic analysers are even more straightforward. The sample containers are fed to the analysers in a specific order. At each "station" a certain amount of blood is taken from the blood specimen, for example, and subjected to preliminary tests: albumin or cell components are extracted, mixed with chemicals, heated, cooled or tested for light absorption, until eventually the results of tests can be fed into the computer.

The computer receives this data either in digital form, that is in figures according to the 0-1 principle, or in analagous form, that is in electrical impulses equivalent to the data. The computer can also communicate its answers and instructions to the laboratories and analysers in analogous or digital form. The automatic analysers work on a two- or twelve-canal system; this means that one specimen can be used for two or twelve investigations simultaneously.

Naturally the Tübingen computer operates on the Time-Sharing-Executive method. This means that the computing time available is shared by several operators; according to a definite priority system, the computer uses pauses lasting the tiniest fraction of a second, which occur during one particular information process, for the next important information process. A special programme ensures that even unexpected information which is fed into the computer is not wasted but stored.

For this purpose, three storage units with a capacity of over half a million "words" each are attached to the computer brain, which has a capacity of 32,768 "words" of sixteen bits (information units) each. 36,000 words per second can be exchanged between the two storage systems.

(DIE WELT, 10 February 1969)



Blood specimens being tested in the automatic lab system established at Tübingen University clinic. (Photo: dpa)

THINGS SEEN

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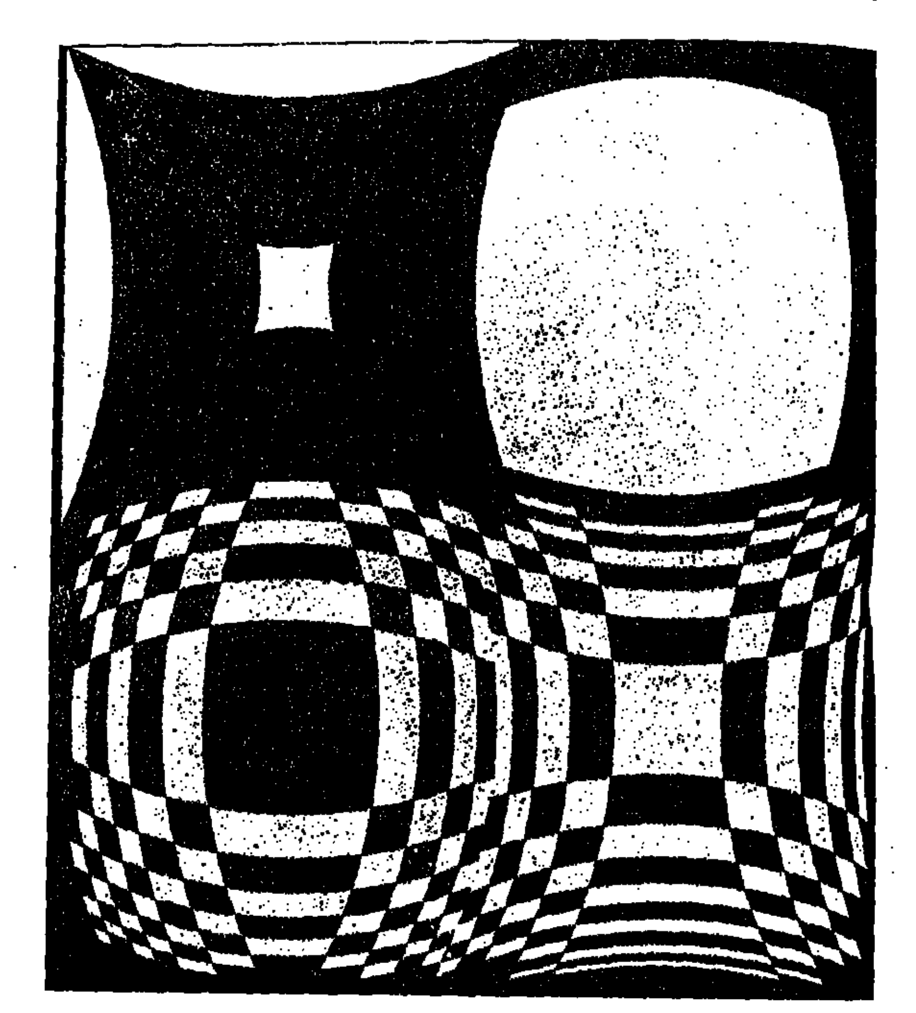
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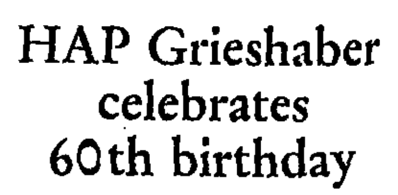
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The quantities of oestrogen produced and excreted each day vary enormously from woman to woman so it is impossible to quote a definite danger figure. But the variations with each patient only amount to plus or minus fifteen per cent. If the condition of the embryo deteriorates, then it can be pretty definitely stated that the reduction in the amount of oestrogen excreted would be much greater.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 February 1969)

Computer stores medical case histories at Tübingen clinic

Europe's first fully-automatic, diagnostic and clinical information system at Tübingen University hospital was recently shown in action before a public audience. The system regulates and checks the patient's personal details, treatment prescribed by the doctor, daily medical reports and automatic laboratory tests covering the whole range of routine medical and therapeutic check-ups in the hospital.

The "heart" of the system is an IBM 1800 computer which receives information from fifteen machines and analysers in seven clinical and diagnostic laboratories, and then checks, evaluates and if necessary complements this information.

The computer transmits its evaluation back to the individual laboratories whence the information or test results were obtained straightaway. Thus laboratory doctors gain an immediate picture of the patient's overall condition and, if need be, the nature of the automatic tests can be changed through providing additional instructions.

The system goes into operation as soon as the patient is admitted to hospital. All important personal details are recorded in computer language on the patient's record card, or given to the computer department in punch-card form.

For his first examination, the computer provides the doctor with written "prescription" and "pathological" forms divided up into 250 sub-sections; the doctor simply has to mark with a cross which of six hundred laboratory tests are to be carried out.

A pneumatic post system immediately transfers the forms from the ward to the computer department where everything else is done automatically, thus excluding the possibility of mistakes or misunderstandings. The data processing equipment includes a "mark reader" which does not allow any errors to pass, even if the doctor has made a mistake in his instructions.

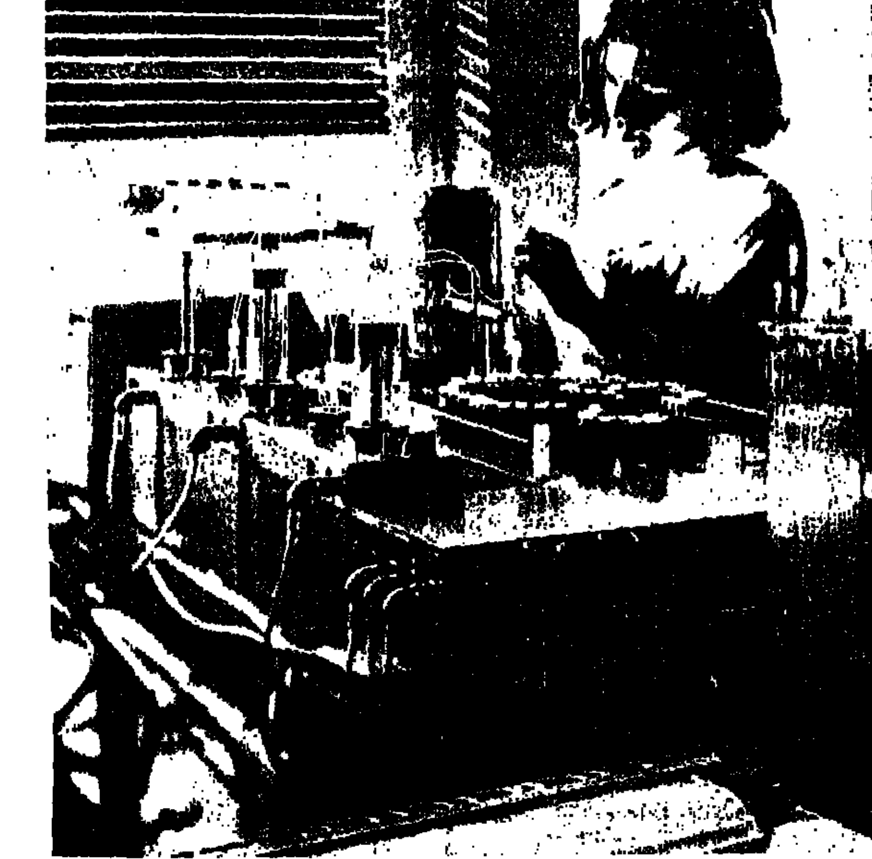
On the basis of the information provided by the "mark reader" the computer then prints two lists, which complement one another, namely a list of "ward instructions" and a list of "laboratory tests."

The first list tells the ward sister from which patients she must obtain blood, urine or saliva samples or other specimens to send to the laboratory for testing. And to ensure that she does not forget anything, the computer not only sends her a check list but also labels with control numbers for the specimen containers. The labels also have coded data on them, which can then be deciphered again by the automatic "sample readers" in the laboratory.

When the appropriate sample containers reach the laboratory, the second list for laboratory tests is already at hand. In addition the computer provides the laboratory with appropriately marked punch-cards which are used for internal traffic between the various laboratories and the processing equipment. Measurements from enzyme and electrolyte recorders, photometers and similar apparatus are registered on these cards.

The automatic analysers are even more straightforward. The sample containers are fed to the analysers in a specific order. At each "station" a certain amount of blood is taken from the blood specimen, for example, and subjected to preliminary tests: albumin or cell components are extracted, mixed with chemicals, heated, cooled or tested for light absorption, until eventually the results of tests can be fed into the computer.

The computer receives this data either in digital form, that is in figures according to the 0-1 principle, or in analagous form, that is in electrical impulses equivalent to the data. The computer can also communicate its answers and instructions to the laboratories and analysers in analogous or digital form. The automatic analysers work on a two- or twelve-canal system; this means that one specimen can be used for two or twelve investigations simultaneously.



Blood specimens being tested in the automatic lab system established at Tübingen University clinic. (Photo: dpa)

Naturally the Tübingen computer operates on the Time-Sharing-Executive method. This means that the computing time available is shared by several operators; according to a definite priority system, the computer uses pauses lasting the tiniest fraction of a second, which occur during one particular information process, for the next important information process. A special programme ensures that even unexpected information which is fed into the computer is not wasted but stored.

For this purpose, three storage units with a capacity of over half a million "words" each are attached to the computer brain, which has a capacity of 32,768 "words" of sixteen bits (information units) each. 36,000 words per second can be exchanged between the two storage systems.

(DIE WELT, 10 February 1969)

INDUSTRY

Industrial giants are not immune to competition

The spectacular foundation of Ruhrkohle in November 1968 was, it now seems, nothing other than a demonstration or a concession to Bonn and the miners' union, the IG Bergbau. Indeed the difficulties are now so enormous that one is inclined to wonder whether this complex of mining companies under joint management will ever function and whether it is at all desirable that it should.

In Bonn and elsewhere talks are still going on, but the major problems involved are more entangled than ever. It must be decided what Ruhrkohle should undertake in the next twenty years and what it should avoid.

If the organisation is committed to a "dynamic business policy" to avoid having to avail itself of the Federal guarantees for the compensation of the original companies, it will come into conflict with these original owners who are now the its shareholders. Just think of what is at stake: large power stations, refineries, chemical works and other enterprises.

The alternative could be to courtail output of coal, coke and briquettes, but it would be most doubtful whether Ruhrkohle could meet its commitments without realising the Federal guarantees, without spending the tax payer's money, that is. Many question marks stand out in the reports that have been made.

If Ruhrkohle is given free rein, however, the danger exists that it will create facilities which will require such high depreciation allowances that the government will be forced to help with the repayments. Even those who favour the development of such a combine admit that it would only be feasible if at least 85 per cent of the Ruhr mining industry (in terms of output) joined the scheme.

This prospect is gloomier than ever. Such large-scale participation would only be possible if it were decided to abandon the uniform principles of evaluation of the pooled assets (principles that are based incidentally on the book values of 1949) and to introduce instead a system of valuation application to each colliery in turn, taking assets and long-term earning capacity into consideration. This would be the normal procedure in industry in the case of mergers.

It is a procedure, however, that would take years to complete, and that is why the experts wished to avoid it. Now it is obvious, however, that several mining companies which might be prepared to join the organisation would be severely handicapped by the schematic valuation system.

Under present circumstances the Companies Act would hardly permit these concerns to assume the responsibility vis-à-vis their shareholders of joining the organisation. Two firms have filed a plea with the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe to avoid being "pressed into the scheme."

Either consideration must be made for the justifiable interests of these companies, specified clearly in the Companies Act, which might set off a chain reaction; or hopes of 85 per cent participation must be abandoned and planners should be content if seventy per cent of Ruhr companies cooperate. In this case, the estimates hitherto made must be scotched.

Nothing can be achieved with massive threats, such as the withdrawal of subsidies or similar measures. To complicate matters still further the coke contracts with the steel industry; supply contracts with Ruhr power stations, which are still in the hands of the original companies; and the question of living accommodation ownership are most involved.

It, according to official estimates, the Dutch will have ceased mining by 1975, by which time the Belgians will have reduced output to eight or ten million tons annually and the French to 25 million tons, the Ruhr will then be the steel industry's main source of coke in the Community. Ruhr facilities could not meet such demand, however, since many coking plants are either too small or too old.

Experts estimate that about 1,000 million Marks would have to be invested in new large-scale coking plant. Who should build the plant? The steel works or the collieries? Who will meet the demand for coking coal? At present, supplies are just about sufficient. Coking coal subsidies for the steel industry, and, consequently, the Federal guarantees, cannot be divorced from the simple question of quantitative supply.

This is just to touch on a few of the difficulties involved. It remains to be asked whether this projected mammoth complex is the only answer to the Ruhr's dilemma or whether five or six viable groups of enterprises should be formed in the Ruhr.

These could easily be formed through a series of ordinary mergers covering the entire list of assets. Each group would be organised in acordance with the new laws regulating the adjustment of output to overall demand.

Subsidies of seven Marks per ton would be maintained, but no state guarantees would be needed for the repayment of the value of the assets realised in each group. Nor would there be any compulsion to invest, avoiding the hazards of misguided investments.

Understandably, the endless trouble with coal is a worry to everyone, not only to Bonn.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 February 1969)

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In the estimation of these debts it must be remembered that they cover almost 12,000 million Marks which the Federal Republic inherited from the former German Reich.

An important item on the list of post-war debts are the book-entry securities of the insurance annuity funds and the Federal agency handling and unemployment insurance, amounting to 4,900 million Marks.

Post-war economic aid from America still shows a residue of 720 million Marks still to be repaid. In addition to this American loans amount to fifty million Marks.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 February 1969)

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The agreement between the August Thyssen concern and Mannesmann to cooperate in the manufacture of steel tubes has again animated the debate on the trend towards greater concentration of resources. The sharp increase in the number of mergers in the last two or three years provoked less criticism than was levelled at this tendency in previous years. The view has been widely adopted that economic expansion depends largely on the size of enterprises and that the pace is set by the largest.

This has most clearly been demonstrated by Japan which, according to the latest statistics, is now the third largest industrial country in the world. This great advance was due mainly to the construction and extension of industrial plant.

It was not to be denied that this country's largest concerns, with few exceptions, belong to the medium-size category, by international standards. They can only hold their own in international

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competition. Nor does it relieve large developing other forms of cooperation.

In manufacturing, supply of raw material, sales and especially in research and development such closer cooperation would give them financial, organisational and technological opportunities similar to those enjoyed by their foreign competitors. Only with equal chances from the start can these companies hope to hold their own in the long term.

The alliance between Thyssen and Mannesmann seems to have come as a shock to many. It is difficult to say what has caused the great anxiety, the predominant position of both companies in the home market for steel tubes, or the prospect of both firms forming a closer partnership at a later date.

Both firms are bound to profit from the agreement on the production of steel tubes. Profit ability and competitive potential are sure to improve, especially abroad.

Critics of this and similar agreements are asking if the economy in its entirety, especially consumers, profit from the formation of greater production units or if this could have detrimental effects. It is not denied that in many sectors large enterprises can achieve better results than medium-size concerns. It is suggested, however, that firms with a predominant position in the market tend (or are tempted) to abuse this position by, for example, keeping prices higher than they would normally be in competition between a greater number of producers in periods of limited sales.

It follows that if the means of production were merged to the extent that the market would be supplied by only a few or perhaps even by a single enterprise, consumers would be worse off than if they were supplied by a greater number of manufacturers. Supply might be limited, quality would suffer and prices would be too high.

That such a situation could arise if the market were dominated by one or more companies cannot be denied. But is such a development possible if free competition is not deliberately abolished by the government (by approving monopolies or import barriers)? What is today a market? National boundaries are not market boundaries.

Even the EEC, with the exception of a few products, cannot be regarded as a fenced-in market. Competition today spans all boundaries and all distances.

This is a result not only of the abolition of tariffs and other trade barriers but also of the acceleration and lower cost of transport facilities, especially over long distances.

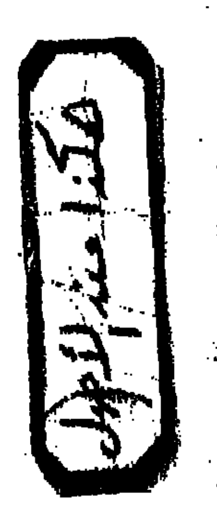
Besides, the structure of international companies of the necessity to improve marketing centres in a number of countries has brought about radical changes in the pattern of world-wide competition. The hold a company has on a market can be lost tomorrow if a foreign competitor offers better products at cheaper prices.

This international competition offers effective protection to consumers against exploitation of the marketing media by companies with a powerful hold on the market. Competition also obliges leading domestic companies to utilise very means of reducing costs and improving the quality of their products.

When a company, no matter how strong its position on the market, uses the advantage it has over its competitors merely to widen its profit margins without increasing production, it would give its competitors an opportunity to improve their foothold on the market and ultimately perhaps take the lead.

The size of a company is an important factor in many sectors, but size alone is not beneficial in all sectors. Size may be an advantage, but it does not remove competition by pooling their resources or companies with manufacturing plant and their production facilities and the need to adapt their production programmes as far as possible to the demands of the consumers on whom they depend.

(DIE WELT, 14 February 1969)



Anglo-German business talks

British and Federal Republic businessmen intend to meet for regular talks on practical recommendations for closer cooperation, if the British follow the proposal made by Alwin Münchmeyer to the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, during the latter's visit to the DIHT (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelstag). Münchmeyer suggested to the Prime Minister that industrialists from both countries should meet regularly, for example, on an "investment committee."

Workable ways of extending relations between businessmen are to be examined. These would benefit both sides, since both countries' interests are complimentary.

Britain welcomes all forms of capital imports, the Federal Republic all forms of capital exports. If British enterprises, whether publicly or privately owned, were to raise loans on the Federal Republic market, as their French counterparts are accustomed to doing, this country's balance of payments surpluses and the British payments deficits would be reduced.

Mr Wilson promised to discuss the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Confederation of British Industry.

Regular contacts also further other common interests. With Europe in mind, such plans for practical cooperation are very welcome. Perhaps it is time for economists to steal the march on the politicians.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

CONSUMER GOODS

Deep-frozen foods leave housewives cold

POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANSION ARE AVAILABLE

"The most important development in the food industry in the next ten years will be the storage of 65 per cent of foodstuffs in deep-freeze units." This forecast for the American market made by the periodical *Quick Frozen Foods* sounds like wishful thinking to most producers of frozen foods in this country. Consumption of frozen foods per head of population in the United States has climbed to over sixty pounds weight annually, compared to only five pounds in the Federal Republic.

Nevertheless, producers in this country have reason to be pleased with themselves. The market for frozen foods is only now being developed. After hesitant beginnings in the fifties the market began to expand in 1962 when 55,000 tons of frozen foods (excluding poultry and ice cream) were produced. The 1967 figuire was 129,870 tons.

Growth rates in recent years have levelled off at about ten per cent. Last year, sales shot ahead of this mark, accord to available estimates. It is hoped that this increase will be maintained in the years ahead.

The market in this sector, as in many others, has undergone many changes in recent years. In the early sixties when suppliers were proud of every new product they marketed, when it was more a question of the quality of the product than of the presentation of new product ideas, sales were not yet the main problem.

Today, this is no longer so. Suppliers' concern with proprietory products has waned, prices are not taboo any more.

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The market for frozen foods, newly organised, has become an important factor in industry.

By creating their own brands, traders are even now competing with industry. This is a very important development for the frozen foods market. Suppliers want to know when investments in storage and deep-freeze facilities will begin to show a profit. They want to know where the rapid turnover lies in this sector, where the big profits are to be made.

About 100 companies are now producing frozen foods. These are not only under pressure from the trade. Findus-Jopa, Unilever and the GEG, three leading suppliers, managed to reduce the high proportion of basic costs they have had in recent years in overall costs. These still largely determine the costs structure.

Basic costs result from freezing operations (equipment, storage, transport etc.) and from marketing facilities which are largely constant in this industry. Besides, the great variety of the products which are harvested at different times of the year require great mobility in the process of production. Multi-purpose equipment must be used.

Only now have the leading manufacturers—Findus and Iglo account for about thirty per cent of sales, Tiko for fifteen per cent—exceeded the break-even point and are showing a positive balance. Basic costs demand full utilisation of facilities and rapid turnover. Only with quantities such as are now being produced can basic costs per unit of production be reduced to the point when some profit remains.

Although Findus-Jopa, for example, succeeded in reducing production costs by one sixth since 1960, basic costs still require that more and more new ideas must be tried out, all the more so because the market structure has changed in recent years.

Manufacturers are confronted with consumer habits which suggest that housewives are still not very partial to the idea of frozen foods. Why is this? Manufacturers cannot say.

Conditions for a major breakthrough would seem to be ideal in this country, if one discounts the fact that a gulf exists between suppliers and consumers. Yet at the beginning of last year only eleven to twelve per cent of households in the Federal Republic possessed its own freezer, according to figures issued by the industry's association.

Most people are fairly prosperous in this country. When business is good, sales of frozen foods show an increase. Many women are working and have little time for cooking at home. With the tensions of professional life increasing also in this country, the desire for greater leisure is stronger than ever. And yet sales of frozen foods are only edging upward.

Comparative figures from Scandinavian countries are quoted again and again. Per capita consumption in Sweden is sixteen pounds, in Norway and Denmark seven pounds and in Britain almost ten pounds.

Is the German housewife simply not economically minded? Is she still loyal to grandmother's cookery book? Is she not aware of the time saved with frozen foods? Has she tasted too many frozen products which were not quite up to par in quality and taste? Are the quantities on sale too much for one-man households? Is the range of products on the market still too small? Who can say?

Manufacturers do not know quite where to begin. "If we knew, we would long since have opened up the market," said a Findus spokesman. While this indecision remains, it would be wiser perhaps to concentrate on the more economically minded large-scale consumers who boosted sales in 1967 by eighteen per cent. Household sales went up only five per cent. Domestic packages of frozen foods still account for seventy per cent of returns, however.

Manufacturers and traders should do more therefore than simply follow the market trend. Advertising must be better organised. Consumers must be better informed of the advantages of frozen foods.

In this matter of consumer instruction manufacturers are discontented with suppliers who they say are not making the right effort to promote frozen foods. Since frozen foods account for only a small percentage of overall food sales, the considerable profit margin going with a packet of frozen food is not fully appreciated. Many traders are apt to conclude that frozen foods are not worth the trouble. The very opposite is true, say the makers, who deplore this attitude.

Much could be achieved too with a more flexible production policy. Sales have been carried since the early sixties by frozen-vegetable soups, fish fingers and spinach. A vast number of other products have come on the market since then, but none of them has sold as well as these three.

The trade needs these "runners," however. Findus believes it has found one in a new cod fillet that was recently launched and has surpassed the firm's expectations.

Usually when a product is launched a slump sets in after the curiosity wave of buying has passed. Findus cod is still as popular as ever. Findus is convinced that new ideas are what will sell frozen foods. In the fifties and early sixties it was a question of inducing people to touch them at all. Now presentation is vital.

Production can expand any time with the market. The facilities are available. Existing plant can be extended without much trouble by simply adding more production units.

Traders too have their reserves. About eighty per cent of the 174,000 retail outlets in this country are equipped with deep-freeze storage units.

The speed at which these will be filled and emptied in future depends on the success of advertising campaigns which must be instructive and attractive, and on the introduction of a more flexible production policy. But suppliers too must make a greater effort to interest their customers in frozen food products.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

New advertising agency set up in Stuttgart

Stuttgart has a new advertising centre. "What Madison Avenue is for New York, Stuttgart's advertising centre europe, could become for the old Continent, namely, a focal point of the advertising business," wrote one enthusiastic reporter.

This may take some time. The founder and managing director of the centre—Werbecenter-Gesellschaft mobH—forty-two-year-old Gerhard E. Scheible, expects a turnover this year from rents and fees of 1.2 million Marks.

The centre cost 2.5 million Marks to build. All the offices in the building have since found tenants. The show-cases and exhibition rooms have been rented mostly by manufacturers of advertising gifts and material of every description.

Gerhard E. Scheible owns the Center Display Verlag which sells display material. He also runs Center Präsent, a wholesale advertising gift concern. These two firms share half of the capital stock (20,000 Marks) of the new centre.

Scheible has refused to say who is putting up the other half. The name entered in the commercial register is Dr I. F. Probst (Lugano).

A press notice said that two foreign enterprises had shared the cost of the centre. Their fifty per cent interest is being held in trust.

Scheible, who comes from Swabia, aims at establishing contacts between suppliers of advertising material and services and the advertising industry. Services of various description will be offered in his centre.

For 850 Marks a year a company can avail itself of the centre's facilities. Advice will be given in matters concerning advertising and sales, publications and supply and demand.

One department in the new centre, for example, can ascertain without delay where a four-colour prospectus could be quickly printed. A conference room complete with bar is at the disposal of companies who wish to hold seminars, give receptions or simply arrange informal meetings.

Scheible intends to pursue a policy of strict neutrality. If the centre is successful, he may set up others in different parts of the country and perhaps abroad.

(Der Volkswirt, 14 February 1969)

INDUSTRY

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If the organisation is committed to a "dynamic business policy" to avoid having to avail itself of the Federal guarantees for the compensation of the original companies, it will come into conflict with these original owners who are now the its shareholders. Just think of what is at stake: large power stations, refineries, chemical works and other enterprises.

The alternative could be to curtail output of coal, coke and briquettes, but it would be most doubtful whether Ruhrkohle could meet its commitments without realising the Federal guarantees, without spending the tax payer's money, that is. Many question marks stand out in the reports that have been made.

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When a company, no matter how strong its position on the market, uses the advantage it has over its competitors merely to widen its profit margins without increasing production, it would give its competitors an opportunity to improve their foothold on the market and ultimately perhaps take the lead.

The size of a company is an important factor in many sectors, but size alone is not beneficial in all sectors. Size may be an advantage, but it does not remove competition by pooling their resources or companies with manufacturing plant and their production facilities and the need to adapt their production programmes as far as possible to the demands of the consumers on whom they depend.

(DIE WELT, 14 February 1969)

Anglo-German business talks

British and Federal Republic businessmen intend to meet for regular talks on practical recommendations for closer cooperation, if the British follow the proposal made by Alwin Münchmeyer to the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, during the latter's visit to the DIHT (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelstag). Münchmeyer suggested to the Prime Minister that industrialists from both countries should meet regularly, for example, on an "investment committee."

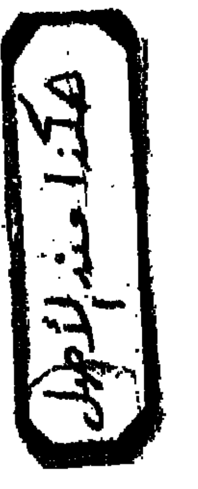
Workable ways of extending relations between businessmen are to be examined. These would benefit both sides, since both countries' interests are complimentary.

Britain welcomes all forms of capital imports, the Federal Republic all forms of capital exports. If British enterprises, whether publicly or privately owned, were to raise loans on the Federal Republic market, as their French counterparts are accustomed to doing, this country's balance of payments surpluses and the British payments deficits would be reduced.

Mr Wilson promised to discuss the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Confederation of British Industry.

Regular contacts also further other common interests. With Europe in mind, such plans for practical cooperation are very welcome. Perhaps it is time for economists to steal the march on the politicians.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)



CONSUMER GOODS

Deep-frozen foods leave housewives cold

POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANSION ARE AVAILABLE

The most important development in the food industry in the next ten years will be the storage of 65 per cent of foodstuffs in deep-freeze units." This forecast for the American market made by the periodical *Quick Frozen Foods* sounds like wishful thinking to most producers of frozen foods in this country. Consumption of frozen foods per head of population in the United States has climbed to over sixty pounds weight annually, compared to only five pounds in the Federal Republic.

Nevertheless, producers in this country have reason to be pleased with themselves. The market for frozen foods is only now being developed. After hesitant beginnings in the fifties the market began to expand in 1962 when 55,000 tons of frozen foods (excluding poultry and ice cream) were produced. The 1967figure was 129,870 tons.

Growth rates in recent years have levelled off at about ten per cent. Last year, sales shot ahead of this mark, accord to available estimates. It is hoped that this increase will be maintained in the years ahead.

The market in this sector, as in many others, has undergone many changes in recent years. In the early sixties when suppliers were proud of every new product they marketed, when it was more a question of the quality of the product than of the presentation of new product ideas, sales were not yet the main problem.

Today, this is no longer so. Suppliers' concern with proprietory products has waned, prices are not taboo any more.

DIE WELT
UNABHÄNGIGE TAGESZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

The market for frozen foods, newly organised, has become an important factor in industry.

By creating their own brands, traders are even now competing with industry. This is a very important development for the frozen foods market. Suppliers want to know when investments in storage and deep-freeze facilities will begin to show a profit. They want to know where the rapid turnover lies in this sector, where the big profits are to be made.

About 100 companies are now producing frozen foods. These are not only under pressure from the trade. Findus-Jopa, Unilever and the GEG, three leading suppliers, managed to reduce the high proportion of basic costs they have had in recent years in overall costs. These still largely determine the costs structure.

Basic costs result from freezing operations (equipment, storage, transport etc.) and from marketing facilities which are largely constant in this industry. Besides, the great variety of the products which are harvested at different times of the year require great mobility in the process of production. Multi-purpose equipment must be used.

Only now have the leading manufacturers—Findus and Iglu account for about thirty per cent of sales, Tiko for fifteen per cent—exceeded the break-even point and are showing a positive balance. Basic costs demand full utilisation of facilities and rapid turnover. Only with quantities such as are now being produced can basic costs per unit of production be reduced to the point when some profit remains.

Although Findus-Jopa, for example, succeeded in reducing production costs by one sixth since 1960, basic costs still require that more and more new ideas must be tried out, all the more so because the market structure has changed in recent years.

Manufacturers are confronted with consumer habits which suggest that housewives are still not very partial to the idea of frozen foods. Why is this? Manufacturers cannot say.

Conditions for a major breakthrough would seem to be ideal in this country, if one discounts the fact that a gulf exists between suppliers and consumers. Yet at the beginning of last year only eleven to twelve per cent of households in the Federal Republic possessed its own freezer, according to figures issued by the industry's association.

Most people are fairly prosperous in this country. When business is good, sales of frozen foods show an increase. Many women are working and have little time for cooking at home. With the tensions of professional life increasing also in this country, the desire for greater leisure is stronger than ever. And yet sales of frozen foods are only edging upward.

Comparative figures from Scandinavian countries are quoted again and again. Per capita consumption in Sweden is sixteen pounds, in Norway and Denmark seven pounds and in Britain almost ten pounds.

Is the German housewife simply not economically minded? Is she still loyal to grandmother's cookery book? Is she not aware of the time saved with frozen foods? Has she tasted too many frozen products which were not quite up to par in quality and taste? Are the quantities on sale too much for one-man households? Is the range of products on the market still too small? Who can say?

Manufacturers do not know quite where to begin. "If we knew, we would long since have opened up the market," said a Findus spokesman. While this indecision remains, it would be wiser perhaps to concentrate on the more economically minded large-scale consumers who boosted sales in 1967 by eighteen per cent. Household sales went up only five per cent. Domestic packages of frozen foods still account for seventy per cent of returns, however.

Manufacturers and traders should do more therefore than simply follow the market trend. Advertising must be better organised. Consumers must be better informed of the advantages of frozen foods.

In this matter of consumer instruction manufacturers are discontented with suppliers who they say are not making the right effort to promote frozen foods. Since frozen foods account for only a small percentage of overall food sales, the considerable profit margin going with a packet of frozen food is not fully appreciated. Many traders are apt to conclude that frozen foods are not worth the trouble. The very opposite is true, say the makers, who deplore this attitude.

Much could be achieved too with a more flexible production policy. Sales have been carried since the early sixties by frozen-vegetable soups, fish fingers and spinach. A vast number of other products have come on the market since then, but none of them has sold as well as these three.

The trade needs these "runners," however. Findus believes it has found one in a new cod fillet that was recently launched and has surpassed the firm's expectations.

Usually when a product is launched a slump sets in after the curiosity wave of buying has passed. Findus cod is still as popular as ever. Findus is convinced that new ideas are what will sell frozen foods. In the fifties and early sixties it was a question of inducing people to touch them at all. Now presentation is vital.

Production can expand any time with the market. The facilities are available. Existing plant can be extended without much trouble by simply adding more production units.

Traders too have their reserves. About eighty per cent of the 174,000 retail outlets in this country are equipped with deep-freeze storage units.

The speed at which these will be filled and emptied in future depends on the success of advertising campaigns which must be instructive and attractive, and on the introduction of a more flexible production policy. But suppliers too must make a greater effort to interest their customers in frozen food products.

(DIE WELT, 15 February 1969)

New advertising agency set up in Stuttgart

Stuttgart has a new advertising centre. "What Madison Avenue is for New York, Stuttgart's advertising centre europe, could become for the old Continent, namely, a focal point of the advertising business," wrote one enthusiastic reporter.

This may take some time. The founder and managing director of the centre—Werbecenter-Gesellschaft media—forty-two-year-old Gerhard E. Scheible, expects a turnover this year from rents and fees of 1.2 million Marks.

The centre cost 2.5 million Marks to build. All the offices in the building have since found tenants. The show-cases and exhibition rooms have been rented mostly by manufacturers of advertising gifts and material of every description.

Gerhard E. Scheible owns the Center Display Verlag which sells display material. He also runs Center Präsent, a wholesale advertising gift concern. These two firms share half of the capital stock (20,000 Marks) of the new centre.

Scheible has refused to say who is putting up the other half. The name entered in the commercial register is Dr I. F. Probst (Lugano).

A press notice said that two foreign enterprises had shared the cost of the centre. Their fifty per cent interest is being held in trust.

Scheible, who comes from Swabia, aims at establishing contacts between suppliers of advertising material and services and the advertising industry. Services of various description will be offered in his centre.

For 850 Marks a year a company can avail itself of the centre's facilities. Advice will be given in matters concerning advertising and sales, publications and supply and demand.

One department in the new centre, for example, can ascertain without delay where a four-colour prospectus could be quickly printed. A conference room complete with bar is at the disposal of companies who wish to hold seminars, give receptions or simply arrange informal meetings.

Scheible intends to pursue a policy of strict neutrality. If the centre is successful, he may set up others in different parts of the country and perhaps abroad.

(Der Volkswirt, 14 February 1969)

AUTOMOBILES

Volkswagen initiates largest-ever public opinion poll of car owners

DIE ZEIT
WOCHENZEITUNG
FÜR POLITIK, WIRTSCHAFT, HANDEL UND KULTUR

Volkswagen have launched their second-ever large-scale campaign to probe public opinion about their range of private cars. Over a period of three weeks thousands of test vehicles are on stand-by at Volkswagen dealers' all over the country. Driving instructors and dual-control models are even available for interested members of the general public who have not yet passed the driving-test.

In spring 1967, when Volkswagen launched the first campaign of this kind, the Wolfsburg car workers were working short-time. Domestic sales had slumped by nearly a quarter since 1966, a record year.

Now that hard times are here, the trade noted, even Heinrich Nordhoff, Volkswagen's first managing director, is having to pay attention to the demands of the general public. Over a period of twenty years Heinrich Nordhoff had made the bombed-out Wolfsburg works the largest motor manufacturer in Europe.

Nordhoff concentrated on two factors:

- rational, inexpensive manufacture by means of thorough automation
- a closely-linked network of dealers geared to carry out repairs at fixed rates.

As long as the Beetle, a Volkswagen evergreen of over thirty years' standing continued to sell at a profit the uncrowned king of Wolfsburg showed little interest in customers' requirements and tastes. Until well into the sixties customers could almost count themselves lucky to get hold of a Volkswagen, so great was the demand.

When Professor Nordhoff died last April Volkswagen sold only two basic models, a far cry from the other major manufacturers, particularly the Americans and their European subsidiaries. Volkswagen buyers had perhaps a dozen versions from which to choose. Opel, for instance, had 135.

Production capacity of 7,000 per day

Nordhoff's legacy to his successor, Kurt Lotz, was a firm with an assembly-line capacity of approximately 7,000 cars a day and the 411, the new saloon launched last autumn. Sales this spring will show whether or not the 411 has been a success.

Yet even though 1968 was a record year for Volkswagen, with a turnover of 11,600 million Marks and 1.8 million cars manufactured, Volkswagen have seldom given better value for money. In mid-February, when the market was shaken by various Berlin rumours, VW shares fell eight points, from 554 3/4 to 546.

NSU shares, on the other hand, are quoted at 483, a steady high. NSU shares have interested stock market speculators since mid-January. On 14 February NSU shares with a nominal value of 700,000 Marks changed hands. The day before it was more than three quarters of a million Marks' worth, nearly one per cent of the share capital. Dealings in NSU shares have been heavier than those in virtually any other stock.

This is nothing unusual for the NSU management, headed by Dr Gerd Stieler von Heydekampf. Hardly a year has passed since NSU, who started off a good eighty years ago manufacturing sewing machines, then bicycles, then motor-cycles and occasionally motor-cars, went over to manufacturing cars only in 1957 in which there have not been wild fluctuations in the market quotation and take-over rumours. "Living with NSU has never been boring," managing director Heydekampf comments.

In 1957 NSU sold their motor-cycle production line to Yugoslavia and started a comeback into the motor trade with the Prinz 3. "We moved from first place in motor-cycles to the bottom of the league in motor-cars," says Heydekampf. NSU became an avant-garde manufacturer after this exercise in forward strategy.

"It was sheer necessity that prompted us to take up the Wankel rotary engine," Heydekampf now admits. "We had to look out for something new to sell in place of bicycles and mopeds." The first Wankel engine, a rotary piston engine in which the energy generated by combustion is converted directly into rotary motion, sprang into life for the first time on 1 February 1957.

The Wankel engine shot NSU shares up to meteoric heights. For a time the shares were quoted at more than 3,000—thirty times their nominal value. It is an open secret that Dresdner Bank, at that time the majority shareholder, sold most of its holdings, so that NSU shares now widely spread.

With approximately ten per cent of the share capital Dresdner Bank is still a major shareholder in comparison with the other 35,000 or so. Two smaller holdings are said to be Swiss-owned.

Via the Prinz 4 NSU slowly made its way towards the one-litre category, continually accompanied by merger and take-over rumours. The list of reputed would-be buyers includes virtually every major motor manufacturer. Chrysler have been most persistently rumoured to be interested in taking over the Neckarsulm firm.

But in the end NSU opted to collaborate with Citroën of France in developing a Wankel-engined European Volkswagen of the future. This legendary car, the Comobil, has already made automobile history even though the first prototype is hardly likely to be shown to the general public before 1970—if things even progress that far.

The first car specifically designed for the Wankel engine, the Ro 80, has since been manufactured at Neckarsulm. Fiat have joined forces with financially-weak Citroën, so laying the groundwork for the General Motors of Europe envisaged by Fiat's managing director. And NSU cannot manufacture cars fast enough to meet foreign orders, particularly exports to Italy.

So the future of the Comobil is less certain than it has been. Fiat are unquestionably the major partner in the Franco-Italian duo and Fiat boss Agnelli still has doubts about the Wankel engine and anything to do with it.

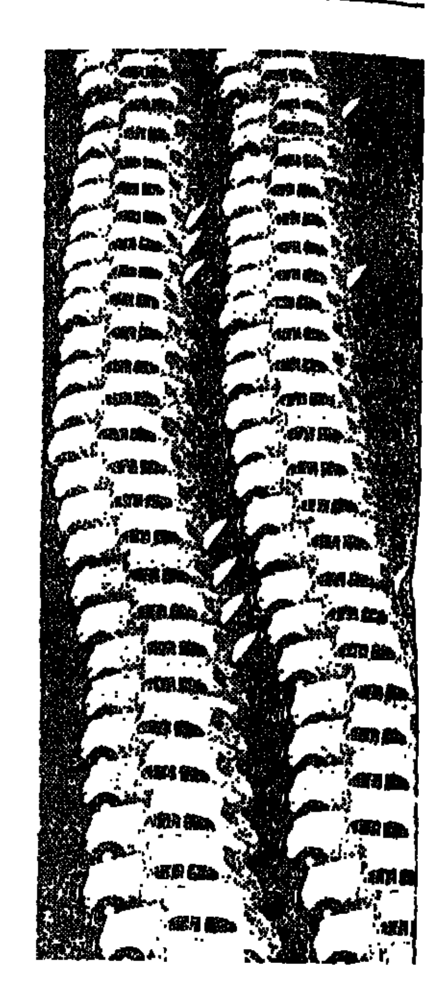
At the beginning of this year the market was shaken by a rumour that Fiat had bought up more than 25 per cent of NSU's share capital. Citroën is reported to have been the source of a ten-per-cent stake and a major Rome bank is reputed to have bought large numbers of NSU shares for an unspecified third party.

Fiat were quick to deny the rumour but there has still been no answer to a question tabled in the Italian Parliament by Socialist deputy Alberto Ciampaglia, who asked Luigi Preti, Minister of Finance, whether there is any truth in reports that Fiat are in the process of coming to terms with NSU.

Italian regulations require consultation with the government before any transaction of major importance. A take-over of NSU certainly comes under this heading. Yet Fiat could go the roundabout way and operate via Citroën and their Heilbronn subsidiary.

A new rumour is now going the stock market rounds. Volkswagen managing director Lotz is reputed not to be prepared to allow Fiat to take over NSU without a fight and Volkswagen are negotiating with Neckarsulm too. NSU boss Heydekampf and Volkswagen's public relations department deny the rumour categorically but Kurt Lotz himself is less forthright.

Since when there has been stock market speculation that Volkswagen will shortly be offering NSU shareholders a share swap of some kind.



A line-up of Volkswagen 'Beetles'.
(Photo: Rudi Herzog)

If current information is to be believed this is not the first time Volkswagen have approached NSU. In the search for additional production facilities Professor Nordhoff is reputed to have said as long ago as 1966 that he would like to buy up NSU, much as he took over Auto Union in Ingolstadt three years beforehand.

The Auto Union take-over shed some light on Nordhoff's management ideas. The man who made the Beetle a world-wide success mainly had his eye on the half-empty Ingolstadt assembly-lines, on which he could manufacture another 300 Beetles a day. The Audi range was an also-ran.

Nine months after Nordhoff's death the atmosphere in Wolfsburg has changed. In recent weeks Kurt Lotz has outlined in talks with journalists his ideas for this country's largest firm:

Kurt Lotz favours a wider range of models to meet customers' varying requirements and is attracted by the American principle of dividing a firm into independently-operating divisions.

The parallels with the ideas and aims of Fiat managing director Giovanni Agnelli can hardly be overlooked.

The first consequence of Lotz's ideas is the decision to build a new Volkswagen works in Salzgitter and quit Ingolstadt. This is a tribute to the sales success of the Audi and the move will at long last gave the Auto Union management an opportunity of extending their own range in a consistent manner.

The second consequence will probably be the unveiling of the Volksporsche this autumn, a popular sports model designed to appeal to young, sporting drivers.

Will the third consequence be the take-over of an NSU division with its own range of rotary-engined models? This would be a logical move towards the greatest car empire in Europe.

At the moment a prospective buyer of NSU would have to pay more than 400 million Marks, which is far more than the firm is worth. But when Die Welt recently wrote that a one-for-one swap of Volkswagen shares in exchange for NSU stock would be bound to trigger off a storm of protest on the part of Volkswagen shareholders the protest did in fact come from the association of NSU shareholders. They feel it would only be a fair exchange.

(DIE ZEIT, 21 February 1969)

Increased foreign car sales in the Federal Republic last year

Foreign cars last year further consolidated and improved their market position in this country. Although partly due to fighting prices, a varied and attractive range and, of course, snob appeal, this success is still to some extent the result of a backlog in the internationalisation of the motor trade.

The 295,000 imported cars accounted for nearly 23 per cent of cars newly-registered in this country last year. Common Market makes, cars from France and Italy took the lion's share. In 1967 only nineteen per cent of new cars were imported and in 1966 less than fourteen per cent.

Fiat, including Autobianchi, unquestionably head the list with 95,000 units, or 7.3 per cent of 1968 domestic sales (as against 6.2 in 1967). Deutsche Fiat, the Heilbronn subsidiary, sold another 13,000 units, making a total market share of 8.3 per cent.

In the league tables Fiat of Italy occupy fifth place after Volkswagen and the two local US subsidiaries, Ford and Opel, and Daimler-Benz.

Next on the list are Renault, who sold 84,000 units in 1968, corresponding to 6.5 per cent of the market (as against 5.9 per cent the year before). The R 4 alone accounted for 52,000 sales, or approximately four per cent of the market.

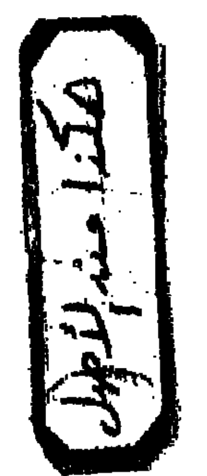
The next foreign manufacturer is Simca, with sales of more than 39,000 units, or three per cent (as against 2.5). The Simca 1100 and 1300 each account for roughly one per cent of the market.

Peugeot sold roughly 19,500 units, dropping 0.1 per cent to 1.5, while Citroen held its 1.1-per-cent stake by selling 14,300 units. British Leyland sold 9,400 units, or 0.7 per cent (as against 0.3 per cent the year before). DAF 6,400, or 0.5 (0.4) per cent and Alfa Romeo 6,7000, or 0.5 (0.3) per cent.

The remaining imports came mainly from Sweden (Volvo and Saab), the United States and Czechoslovakia (Skoda).

Foreign cars did well in this country last year. Domestic manufacturers, on the other hand, sold more than sixty per cent of their production abroad.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 February 1969)



TECHNOLOGY

How to make a million - by thinking!

THOMAS ENGEL, FRANKFURT'S THINKING MACHINE

Simply by sitting down and thinking Thomas Engel makes millions. He may never be given a mention in this country but the managing directors of chemicals giants in Europe, America and Japan out-do one another in bidding for his services. They offer him princely salaries to join their staff but Engel prefers to stay his own boss and sell licences to use his many patents.

In his modern house in which Old Masters hang side by side with any number of old clocks Engel either works in his study, reading books, or in the laboratory nearby. The house stands in a meadow on the outskirts of Heusenstamm, near Frankfurt. The view is anything but attractive but Heusenstamm is centrally located and no distance from Rhine-Main airport.

Thomas Engel travels around Europe by helicopter. His helicopter is in a hangar where most people have their garage. When he has to travel overseas he uses normal jet services.

Engel is blond, slim, athletic and handsome. The occupation listed on his visiting-card is process engineer. A fairy prince of the twentieth century, his watchword is know-how. He makes one discovery after another in plastics. What research teams consisting of dozens of specialists fail to figure out in years of costly laboratory work Thomas Engel works out on his own in Heusenstamm.

He already has sixty international patents and his is not the lot of countless inventors whose ideas are screwball. Engel's inventions are worth their weight in gold for major manufacturers, and so is Engel himself.

Forty-one-year-old Engel is a self-made man par excellence. "I am an autodidact," he frankly admits. Engel hails from Leipzig but his parents moved to Offenbach in 1938. He went to boarding school but failed to pass his school-leaving certificate. "I saw the inside of a school for the last time at the age of sixteen." After the war he worked as a cook for the Americans, then as an interpreter and a commercial traveller.

Fifteen years ago everyone began to talk about synthetics. Thomas Engel took note, took out his savings and started manufacturing in an old laundry in Offenbach. He sprayed old metal jam tins with plastic and sold them as buckets.

Engel's buckets were cheaper than the usual metal ones and certainly less expensive than the new plastic buckets. He had gathered his first smatterings of knowledge about plastics from library books at Frankfurt's Amerika-Haus.

But in the long run the enterprise was not a success. The plastic did not stick to the metal. Engel stopped making buckets and decided instead—once bitten but still curious—to do research on plastics.

This was how he came to hit on the ideas for his first patents, which were concerned with the galvanisation of synthetics. In 1957 he developed the Engel process, which greatly simplified polyethylene foam work. Instead of having to rely on bulky die casting machines manufacturers found they could manage quite well with simple and inexpensive equipment.

Several other of Thomas Engel's discoveries have been of major significance for the international synthetics market. It was Engel who developed a process by which technical fabrics react to breathing. The result was that plastics could be used for car roofs.

Another Engel invention was a means of seamlessly welding large sections of plastic, which has proved of major economic significance for storing chemicals. Plastics he has developed have been used to make fenders for heavy commercial vehicles and even missile cones.

The Engel process is now used to cover steel pipes with plastic and weld them together to oil pipelines or water mains. Engel, too, succeeded in reducing the specific gravity of polyethylene from 0.92 to 0.3. Even saddles, golf balls and children's toys are made from plastic based on hints provided by Thomas Engel. There are factories using Engel patents in every Western industrialised country.

In 1894 Goodyear in the United States succeeded in vulcanising rubber. Previously rubber had only been used as putty for window-frames. With the discovery of vulcanisation rubber suddenly had thousands of uses.

To begin with plastics could not be vulcanised at all. Subsequently an expensive and dangerous way of doing it was discovered. It was left to Thomas Engel to invent an inexpensive way of vulcanising plastics. It was merely a matter of compression and an admixture of certain chemicals. It can well be imaged what vistas this opened up for the chemicals industry.

Engel produced formulas for heat-resistant plastic, since when plastics have been capable of withstanding a permanent temperature of 130 degrees centigrade instead of the previous seventy and can even withstand 400 degrees centigrade for a short period.

Plastics of this kind are made into piping for floor-based central heating, for instance. They are not only heat-resistant but also flexible and impervious to cold and so no longer break.

Thomas Engel is a constant visitor at the head offices of chemicals giants. The managements are often seen at his comfortable Heusenstamm house too. He collects them from the airport in one of his specially-designed Italian sports cars.

Five times a year he flies according to a strictly pre-arranged programme to the United States and East Asia. Although he has never studied chemistry he recently delivered a lecture on synthetics to 600 professors of chemistry and physics in New York.

Early in the morning, before school starts, he cycles through the woods with his two children, seven and ten years old, for half an hour. After breakfast he sits in an armchair and thinks. "It doesn't cost me a penny," he adds. Engel does not even read specialist journals. He likes to keep his mind free from alien ideas.

"Plastics have only just begun," he reckons. People will grow accustomed to the use of plastics in areas of life in which synthetic materials as yet play no part whatsoever. "I am a plastics designer," Engel declares, and the secret of his success is that "I start from scratch. I am free from university ballast. Practice is better than theory. Am I not proof positive?"

Thomas Engel does not think it will be long before motor-cars are made entirely of plastic, including the engine. "The shape of things to come is already clear," he says. But for once this statement is not a piece of original Engel thinking.

(Münchner Merkur, 19 February 1969)

Inexpensive colour TV conversion

Dr von Campenhausen, a Cologne scientist, has devised a means of converting an ordinary black-and-white television set into a set capable of receiving colour television casts. The doctor works at the new Zoological Institute attached to Cologne University. His work involves research into psycho-physiological problems.

Speaking to journalists Dr von Campenhausen said that according to his theories it would be possible to convert a black-and-white set to receive colour television at little expense. It would only be necessary to alter the cameras used.

The system that Dr von Campenhausen has devised is based on Bentham's rotating coil, discovered by Jeremy Bentham in Britain in the last century.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 22 February 1969)

Improved road-building method

Virtually frostproof roads will soon be laid more easily and at less expense using synthetic foam. The conventional method of preventing frost damage is to include a layer of special aggregate or some such material below the road surface.

On country roads this layer is from twelve to sixteen inches thick; on autobahns it can be up to two feet. So 20, 000 tons of special aggregate are needed for a mile of autobahn and as supplies are growing steadily scarcer it has to be transported up to 120 miles to the site.

The road research department of Deutsche Shell has developed a process by which this special layer is replaced by a thin layer of polyurethane foam. The foam can be sprayed and is a first-rate, durable insulation material.

(DIE WELT, 4 March 1969)

World's largest mobile crane

Seven axles of an articulated lorry form the base of a mobile crane, the largest in the world, that can lift 500 tons with its 82-foot jib 26 feet from the axis. Five hundred tons is the weight of six electric locomotives and the maximum height to which the crane can be raised, 525 feet, is only a couple of feet less than the height of Ulm minster.

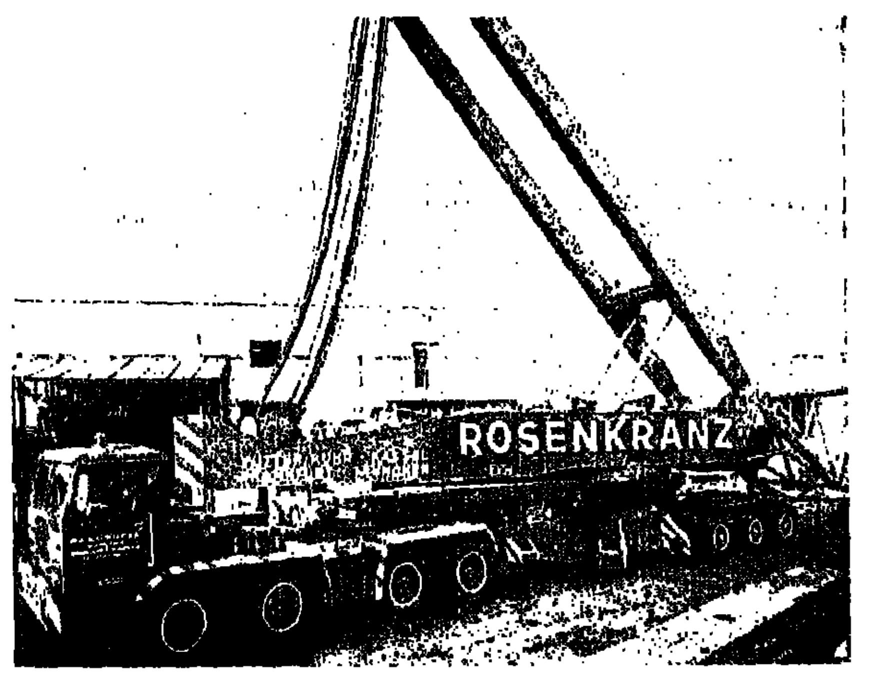
At this height the crane can only manage a weight of ten tons or so but it can lift this weight at a range of up to 260 feet. This gigantic mobile crane, almost certainly the largest and most powerful in the world. It was built by Paul Rosenkranz of Witten, Ruhr, a member of the Bohne group.

The four-axle articulated heavyweight powered by a 300-horse-power Deutz diesel engine was built by Faun and the three-axle trailer by Willy Scheuerle. The cab was built by Rosenkranz and the jib by Thyssen. The cab contains an air-cooled 200-horse-power Deutz diesel engine that powers the hydraulic lifting gear.

Ready to roll the seven-axle base with jib retracted weighs 78 tons and is capable of a maximum speed of 35 miles an hour. In transport the K 5001 is divested of its 135-ton counter-weights and the four props for the 45-foot square base. Including its 525-foot mast the crane reaches an overall weight of 400 tons or so.

Transporting the dismantled parts, including the mast, the hawsers and the grappling-irons, is a matter for seventeen heavy lorries in addition to the main vehicle. Three smaller mobile cranes are needed to assemble the K 5001 on site.

Motorists will never come across such a monster convoy though. Rosenkranz are transporting the giant crane piecemeal, and mostly by rail or inland waterway. Only the last few miles to the site must be covered by road and the parts will be conveyed in succession.



This automobile crane with seven axles can lift approximately 500 tons. The vehicle is not allowed on autobahns without a police escort.
(Photo: Höllers/Rosenkranz)

The crane-driver sits in a cab which more often than not will be way below the scene of events. Directions are to be given by intercom.

Mobile cranes of this size are chiefly used in building steelworks or power stations and in chemicals and oil refineries. Even defective dock cranes or cranes in repair are occasionally replaced by mobile stand-ins. This will certainly be the next assignment of the K 5001, which is off to the docks of Marseilles, France.

In all the crane cost a little more than two million Marks. Rosenkranz claim to have an even larger crane on the drawing-board.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 February 1969)

MODERN LIVING

Escaping from the housewives' kitchen prison

Housewives, through their association in this country, are anxious to develop a new image. The president of the association, Erika Luther in Hanover, has tried to prevent the idea of the housewife from falling into nothing more than a "dear little wife".

Erika Luther says, "young men who want to marry these days are not looking for a timid little wife. Women have the best chances for a happy marriage if they are intelligent, adaptable and try to develop their marriage along sensible lines. Long before marriage women should have made efforts to acquaint themselves with affairs around them. They should try to be articulate about their ideas and take an interest in cultural, economic and political matters."

According to Erika Luther a woman who follows this advice will find that she does not become second-hand as it were. She will have other virtues other than just becoming a grandmother. Technical developments in the home such as washing machines, refrigerators—that make it unnecessary to go out every day and do the shopping since food can be bought and kept fresh for several days at a time—deep-freeze processes and the rest have taken the daily routine out of a housewife's day.

But all this, according to the housewives' association, is no reason for women to become complacent. Men think more of a woman who is selective in her shopping and tries to save money in her purchases. On the other hand men are not too keen on women who are too house-proud and spend the whole day cleaning from top to bottom. When they come home from work they like to know that the wife has also had a busy day.

According to Erika Luther the housewife does not need to spend her time in this way. If a woman does spend all her energies attending to the daily round, if she exhausts from 70 to 80 hours per week on doing housework she is likely to end up a nervous wreck.

In order to aid young housewives the association which Erika Luther heads has established clubs for the newly married. There are at the moment 56 of these. These clubs give advice to members on almost everything, from diets and cooking to dealing with the housekeeping as economically as possible.

A comment from the housewives' association runs to the effect that "young women nowadays are very critical of the previous view of the housewife's position as ethereal and contented with her lot. Now women are confident in themselves and full of purpose."

In the Federal Republic there are 14 Federal state associations and 325 associations in smaller communities. Among these there are 50 centres where wives can obtain advice on matters dealing with cooking, a shopping guide and other domestic matters.

In considering the position of the housewife in contemporary society Erika Luther has come upon three points of importance:

- The first group of wives includes women who are newly wed and going through the 'growing pains' of married life. In this group when the first child arrives something like 30 per cent of the women still go out to work. It is, however, essential, that a woman who does this does not forget the long-term position she is going to have in the growing family.
- The largest group consists of those women who are going through the phase that can best be described as 'parenthood', the phase when the essential elements of being a parent come to the fore. In this phase the children are at school and need advice about this and that as they meet the real world. They also need help with their school world so that it is vital that the woman has something of 'the teacher' in her.
- The third group involves women who are past child-bearing. The family has grown up and she is left with nothing else except the housework—unless she is careful. The women must guard against this development.

"It would be a good idea if a woman over 40, or even older, went back to school," according to Erika Luther. She went on, "since then she is free to develop charm and a certain character her home. A woman then has many, many possibilities to develop herself."

The greatest danger that can beset a woman in this last group, the middle age group, is that she finds herself alone and isolated without friends and interests. And how to avoid this?

One way is to take a greater part in her husband's life, make contact with the people in his outside-the-home circle. To go to lectures and try for further educational betterment as well as to follow up all possibilities in the local community, such as associations, clubs and political groups. But above all a woman should not allow herself to become locked up within the four walls of her home. Young wives of the present generation are dead set against such a way of life, and rightly so.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 February 1969)

Women take too many tablets

Misuse of medicines, so frequently an issue of complaint, is becoming less common, according to a survey carried out for the pharmaceuticals industry in Hamburg by the Allensbach Institute for Market Research.

Investigations show that since 1965 the use of tablets and drops has declined five per cent. Nevertheless 63 per cent of grown ups in this country take pills or tablets every 14 days at least.

People in the professions are the worst offenders—75 per cent take pills. Women go to see their doctor more often than do men. The most common prescription written is against headaches—28 per cent.

According to medical profession statistics the most usual ailments are: colds—18 per cent; heart and circulatory troubles—18 per cent also: digestive troubles—17 per cent: stomach and bladder disorders—10 per cent: insomnia—9 per cent.

Sleeping pills were prescribed for women more often than for men. Approximately four per cent of the grown ups in this country admit to taking slimming pills.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 February 1969)

Shoe-cleaning — a thing of the past

For generations married men, their wives and batchelors have dreamt of a time when it is no longer necessary to clean shoes. At last the chemicals industry has come up with an idea making it no longer necessary to get out the polish and duster.

After considerable research o company in this country has come up with an answer to cleaning leather. The leather during the manufacture of the shoes is coated with polyurethane, making future polishing unnecessary. Dirty marks on the shoes can be wiped off with a wet rag and the polish remains.

The manufacturers claim that the new treatment is impervious to knocks and scratches.

Shoes made with leather treated by the new process will shortly be available in all shoe shops.

The new process will also be used for leather employed in upholstery. Leather used to cover seats in house furniture and cars will be treated by the process protecting the leather from scratches and grease marks. With ease the leather can be cleaned by a wet rag.

(Hannoversche Presse, 15 February 1969)

Get married and live longer

Statistics show that married men live longer than unmarried men. According to recent mortality rates it was shown that a married man can expect to live, on average, 71.5 years. A batchelor can only expect to live 67.5 years by contrast.

Doctors attribute the longer life expectancy for married men to a more regular kind of life. In unhappy marriages, however, men die more frequently of heart diseases and ailments of the bladder brought about by worry.

Fatigue among married women is more often than not caused not so much by any physical troubles but concern over emotional life. Doctors comment that emotional problems can be so severe that physical difficulties can ensue, particularly if disappointments in love are experienced.

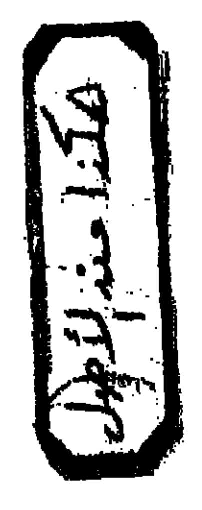
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 February 1969)

For women – of fashion

Trouser suits dominate the spring fashion scene in this country. Clothes are now all-purpose, suitable for formal or informal wear, but more elaborate materials are usually used for evening clothes. A trouser suit is ideal for a hot summer evening on a hotel terrace — for example, a suit in uncrushable celon which is easy to clean and keeps its shape. The picture on the left shows a model in black flared trousers contrasting sharply with the white, patterned jumper. For town wear the smartly dressed woman may prefer a suit with black trousers and a white jumper made of light-weight wool. The wide belt gives the ensemble a striking look. Women who like wearing furs are also catered for. In the second picture from the right the model is wearing beige, satin-crepe trousers with an ocelot top. The second feature of spring and summer fashions is leather. The model on the far right is wearing a suede coat-dress with matching hunting-style boots, a sporty outfit suitable for travel or shopping expeditions. Full-length evening wear is still the height of fashion. The model in the second picture from the left wears a yellow silk top over a long, flared skirt; the embroidery featured on the top makes the whole ensemble more formal.

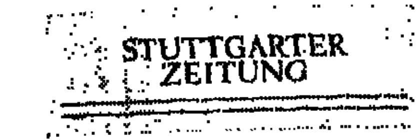
(Photos: Ursula Knipping)





SPORT

Trainer Karl Ziegler has high hopes of his road-racing cyclists



This country's amateur road-racing cyclists have not notched up internationally important victories for ages. They seem to have reached rock bottom. In the circumstances it is as well that newly-appointed national trainer Karl Ziegler, 49, of Mannheim, is an optimist.

Ziegler reckons that he will get on well with the racing cylists' association and particularly well with Erich Hauck of Giessen, its president. He hopes that teamwork will lay the foundations for Olympic success at Munich in 1972.

"The Germans are just as 'fated' to win as the Italians, Belgians or French. Why do we have to lag behind them?" the dark-haired champion-maker of Endspurt Mannheim asks.

Between them Karl Ziegler and Endspurt Mannheim, his club, have won thirty national and three world championship titles. Two of the three world championship have been notched up by Rudi Altig (in 1959 and 1960) and the third by the track combination of Rohr and May, who in summer 1962 shouldered their trainer for a lap of honour on Milan's famous Vigorelli track.

Karl Ziegler used to play league football for Karlsruher FV, was flyweight boxing champion of Baden and won thirty Baden championships in cycling. Cycling was to be the love of Ziegler's life.

He was Rudi Altig's first partner in a team race at Frankfurt and let the future road-racing world champion keep the twenty Marks prize money. Even at the age of forty he and Hans Mangold still took on Rudi and Willi Altig.

Few anecdotes can be so characteristic of Ziegler's thirst for knowledge as that of his 1954 trip to an international cycling course in Monte Carlo — by bike, of course.

Ziegler and his colleague slept in a deserted garage because he could not afford the hotel prices, but the owner of Hôtel de Prince took pity on the two Federal Republic cycling enthusiasts and let them sleep in his attic in their sleeping-bags.

It was at this course that Ziegler was amazed to hear what the three Pelissiers had to say about interval training and to see how world champion Louison Bobet developed his form.

When the Grand Prix de Monaco was held Ziegler had a vision. One of these days, he thought, a German must win here. His wish came true when Rudi Altig, whom Ziegler had helped to win the amateur world championships in Amsterdam and the professional world championships in Leipzig, went on to win the Monaco grand prix from a base in the same garage Ziegler had slept in many years before.

Karl Ziegler still has a vision before his eyes. "No West German cyclist seems able to win the Tour de l'Avenir, the key to the Tour de France, or world championship or Olympic medals. Not even in the four-man 100-kilometre team race, which teamwork required should be a natural for with the subordination, discipline and the German mentality. Something should be possible in this event, particularly as it is the basis of club sport anyway."

With the Backing of Karl Ziegler's experience this vision need not remain an illusion. He is confident that in spite of the growing number of cars in this country the number of road races will increase again and with them the number of tracks.

As first-rate racing cycles at 1,000 Marks or so are too expensive for young people (really good racing cycles have ten years and more than forty variations in transmission) clubs ought to buy Bambi cycles for youngsters of twelve and over. "We must to go the schools and seek the assistance of teachers in setting up cycling sections," Ziegler feels.

He also reckons that cyclists need to get cracking for Munich. He is helping to frame guidelines that are to be drawn up by the standards committees of the National Olympic Committee and the racing cyclists' association.

The guidelines are to be binding on all club trainers and will bear in mind sporting, psychological and medical considerations. Eighty-nine people registered for a training course for trainers in Freiburg — a promising sign indeed. The best of these club trainers will be issued with trainers' licences.

Fitness alone is no longer enough for racing cyclists. They must train every day, particularly in winter. Knowledge about physical training, nutrition and so on makes a higher-grade breed of cyclist essential.

Ziegler has proved that with the aid of sports medicine it is possible for for people to take part in a four-kilometre track race on day and shortly afterwards to take part in a 100-kilometre road race. Karl Ziegler is a great believer in the all-round racer who starts on the track and goes on to road-racing. Rudi Altig is a case in point.

For the time being the new road-racing trainer is to use a mixture of old and young racers. He hopes to build up an A, a B and even a junior team for shorter distances. They are to be a catchment basin for a national team that is to be chosen solely on performance.

"We will soon have to take a look at the Bruno world championship course and hold a race under as similar conditions as possible in order to sort out the sheep from the goats," Karl Ziegler concludes.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 10 February 1969)



Karl Ziegler
(Photo: Horstmüller)

Championship ice-skating takes a great deal of physical stamina

Eight thousand spectators in Garmisch ice rink and millions of television viewers held their breath as they watched the Russian pair Irina Rodnina and Alexei Ulanov catapult into the air four times in succession.

Only six feet apart the two skaters spun simultaneously through four exceedingly difficult manoeuvres in as many seconds and did so as effortlessly and as lightly as though they were outside the Earth's gravity.

As this staggering combination was but the climax of a world championship free skating display and was carried out without complications it was tempting to accept it as a matter of course.

Who at a moment such as this stops to think about the enormous amount of work behind these few minutes on the ice? Does the average ice-skating consumer have any idea of the backbreaking work that lies behind a display of four or five minutes?

The spectator sees but the quintessence of years of training, the glitter and glamour of the display, and is distracted from thought by the romantic music that emits from the loudspeakers.

"A good ice-skater," writes Dr Dieter Baron, medical adviser to the Federal Republic Ice-Skating Union (DEU), "needs to have the condition of a medium-distance runner, otherwise he will not last out his time on the ice."

Rosemarie Brüning, chairman of the DEU trainers' council and ex-trainer of the championship-winning combination of Göbl and Ningel, adds that "a freestyle display makes demands on a woman in particular that approach the utmost limits of physical possibility."

What an outstanding constitution and condition Gaby Seyfert of Chemnitz, European champion and world champion-designate, must have. At the end of every training session she goes through her freestyle programme twice in succession.

She does so for psychological reasons. "After double the effort it is easier to pull out all the stops on the day," the Saxon girl whose forte is the double axel says.

The double axel is the most difficult of all jumps and requires particular concentration during training. "A talented skater will take at least three years to learn how to do the double axel adequately for competition purposes. A pole-vaulter does not clear five metres from one day to the next either," Rosemarie Brüning explains.

"Axel training is such hard work that I, for instance, never let my girls do more than a quarter of an hour of it a day," she adds.

Ice-skaters are on the ice every day, world-championship standard skaters for up to six hours a day. In Munich skaters skate eleven months a year, in Garmisch, Bad Tolz and Füssen nine. They frequently start at the age of five.

"Talent can already be spotted in a five-year-old," Frau Brüning reckons. And "three years later a beginner can already take part in championships." But not every child that puts on skates shows promise. "I have had to tell many parents that their children are not talented. Sad to say, parental ambition is often the motive force," Rosemarie Brüning notes.

Still, most young skaters enjoy skating. They are mad about their hobby and prepared to make astonishing sacrifices. Rosemarie Brüning mentions Marion von Cetto, one of her pupils, as a case in point. "She lives in Pfaffenhofen and travels into Munich every day after school for training. Her father must pay 500 Marks a month for public transport alone. As far as I am concerned they are all little heroes."

In this country at least eighty per cent of ice-skating training takes place on the ice. Very few skaters have a second sport to fall back on in the summer. "There is too little system in the summer months," Frau Brüning comments. "Preparation for the competition season is not what it might be."

Circuit training, she willingly admits, has never done an ice-skater any harm. But "between May and July rinks close and we no longer have any control over what our skaters get up to. Yet these months are particularly important."

Gaby Seyfert is reputed to do a lot of cross-country racing in the summer. She also strengthens her leg muscles by weightlifting. Frau Brüning's pupils prefer ballet as a secondary discipline. "Ballet lessons really do lead to descipline on the ice," Frau Brüning says. But not every training group has its own ballet master as in the Soviet Union.

For ice-skaters the road to success is long and difficult. Getting to the top calls for patience and stamina, talent and perseverance, courage and a balanced temperament, strong nerves and at times a fair amount of luck.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 February 1969)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
Australia	10 c.
Austria	S 3.—
Belgium	bfr 6.—
Bolivia	$ b 1.50
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35
Bulgaria	Lev 0.05
Burma	K 0.60
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—
Cambodia	R 4.00
Cameroun	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60

Colombia	col $ 1.—
Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—
Costa Rica	C 0.85
Cuba	P 0.13
Cyprus	11 d
Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Denmark	dkr 0.90
Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15
Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50

Formosa	NT $ 5.—
France	FF 0.60
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
Germany	DM 1.—
Ghana	cedi 0.12
Great Britain	11 d
Greece	Dr 4.—
Guatemala	Q 0.15
Guayana	BWI $ 0.20
Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20
Honduras	L 0.25
Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft. 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.80

Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	Rl 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 50
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
Kuwait	50 fils
Laos	Kip 60.—
Lebanon	P 40.—
Liberia	Lib $ 0.15
Libya	50 Mills
Luxembourg	lfr 6
Madagascar	FM 30.—

Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.50
Morocco	DM —.65
Mozambique	Esc 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
Netherlands	Hfl 0.50
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New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.85
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
Norway	nkr 0.90
Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B 0.15

Paraguay	G 15.—
Peru	S 3.50
Philippines	P. phil 0.60
Poland	Zl. 0.50
Portugal	Esc. 1.—
Rhodesia	11 d
Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—
Rumania	Leu 0.50
Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60
Sweden	skr 0.60
Switzerland	FS 0.50
Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Sierra Leone	Le 0.10
Somalia	Sh So 0.60
South Africa	Rand 0.10
South Korea	Won 35.—
S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—
Spain	Pts 6.—

Sudan	PT 5.—
Syria	£ S 0.50
Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Thailand	B 3.—
Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Turkey	T £ 1.25
Tunisia	65 M
Uganda	EAs 0.25
UAR	PT 5.—
Uruguay	P 20.—
USA	$ 0.20
USSR	Rbl 0.10
Venezuela	B 0.60
Yugoslavia	Din 1.—
Zambia	11 d